5
Yozakura Quartet
Suzuhito Yasuda

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5

Suzuhito Yasuda

Translated by Satsuki Yamashita
Adapted by Nunzio DeFilippis and Christina Weir
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

DEL REY
Ballantine Books · New York

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A Del Rey Manga/Kodansha Trade Paperback Original

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Published in the United States by Del Rey, an imprint of The Random House Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc., New York.

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Publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd.

First published in Japan in 2008 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

ISBN 978-0-345-51634-3

Printed in the United States of America

www.delreymanga.com

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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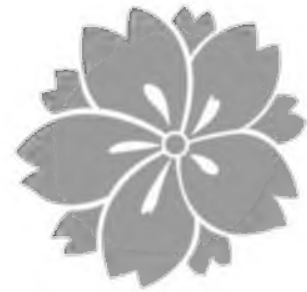

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A Note from the Author

All the characters on the covers hold an instrument, and I would like them to be part of a jazz band rather than a full orchestra or a rock band. So Touka gets the trombone. My favorite musician said, "It's awesome to have an all-girl brass section!" I agreed wholeheartedly. I would like to draw a scene where Touka flings around a trombone while playing it (although I don't think there will ever be a scene like that).

Suzuhito Yasuda

Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

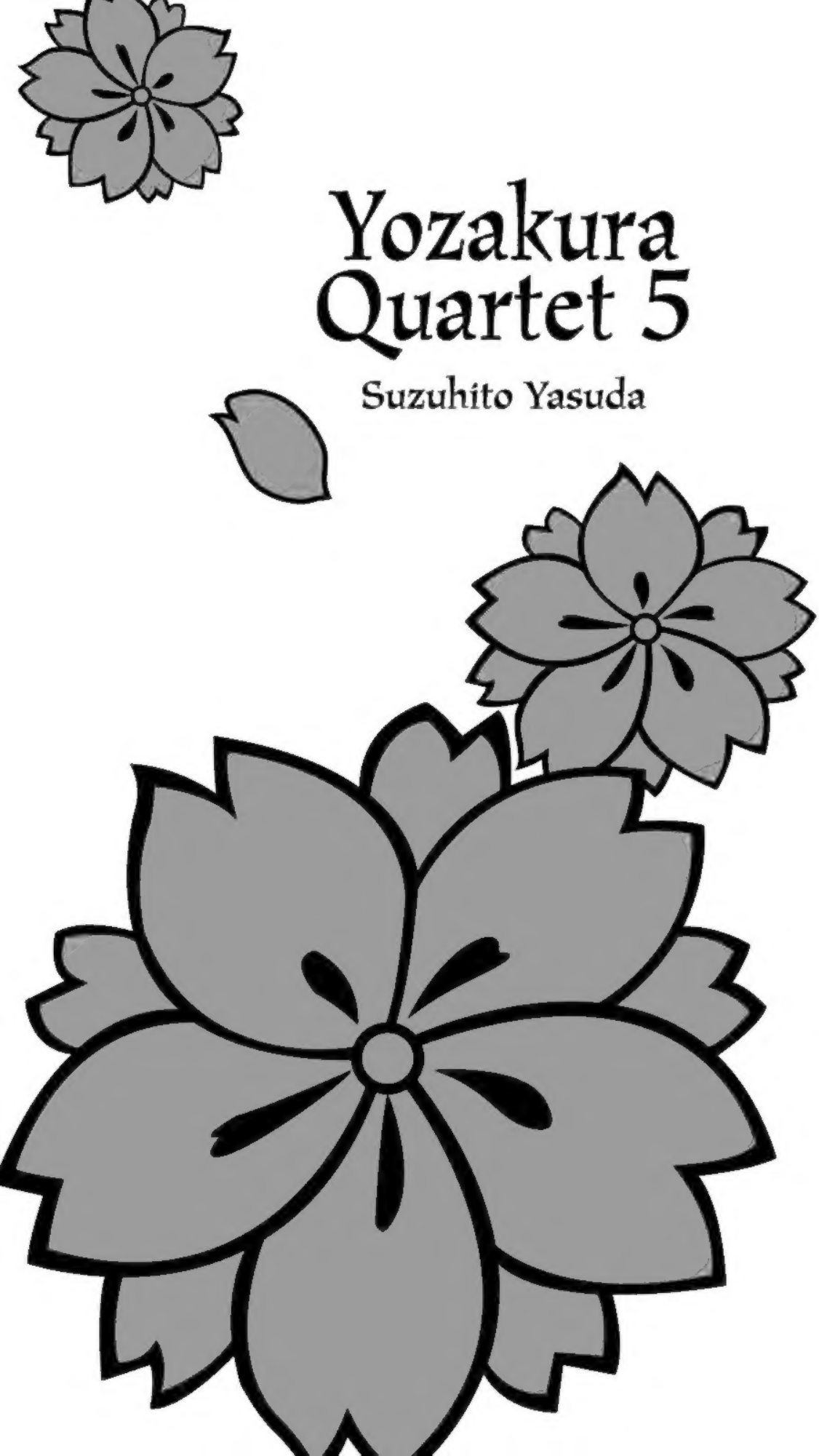
Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Yozakura Quartet 5

Suzuhito Yasuda



Hime is the mayor of Sakurashin Town. She is in high school. She has superhuman abilities.

Hime Yarizakura

The director of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. He is a normal human who has to deal with all the weirdness that occurs in the town.

Akina Hiizumi

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

Yozakura Quartet

CHARACTER PROFILE

An employee of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a satori, a demon that can read minds.

Ao Nanami

Kotoha Isone

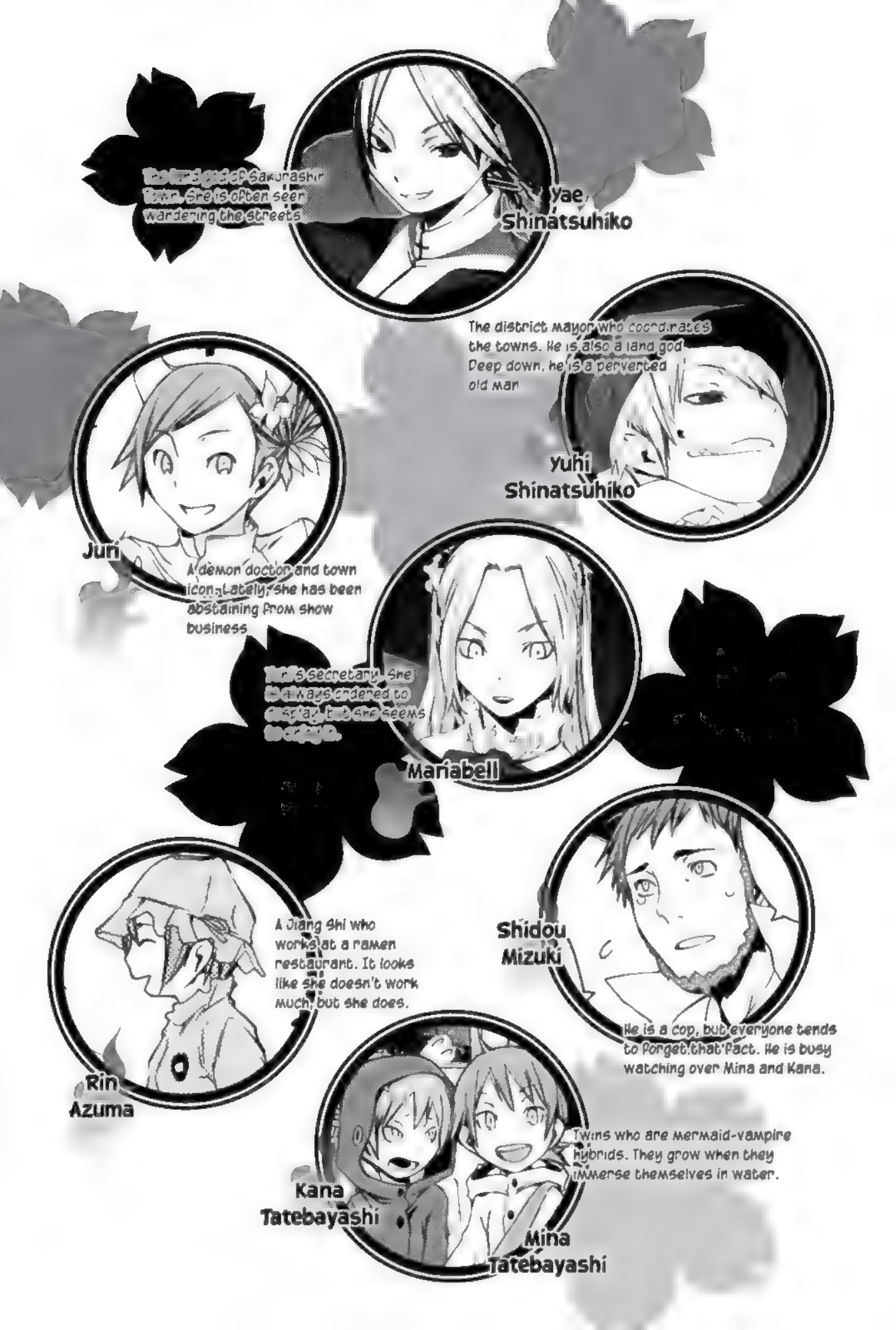
A part-time worker at the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a kotodama user, someone who can conjure up anything she speaks.

Kyosuke Kishi

Hime's assistant. He keeps his demon powers in check with shackles. He cares deeply for his younger sister, Touka, and he is constantly worried about her.

Touka Kishi

Kyosuke's younger sister. She can't control her demon powers. She is secretly in love with Akina.


Yae
Shinatsuhiko
Yuhi
Shinatsuhiko
Juri
A demon doctor and town icon. Lately, she has been abstaining from show business
Mariabell
Shidou
Mizuki
He is a cop, but everyone tends to forget that fact. He is busy watching over Mina and Kana.
Rin
Azuma
A Jiang Shi who works at a ramen restaurant. It looks like she doesn't work much, but she does.
Kana
Tatebayashi
Mina
Tatebayashi
Twins who are mermaid-vampire hybrids. They grow when they immerse themselves in water.

OUTLINE

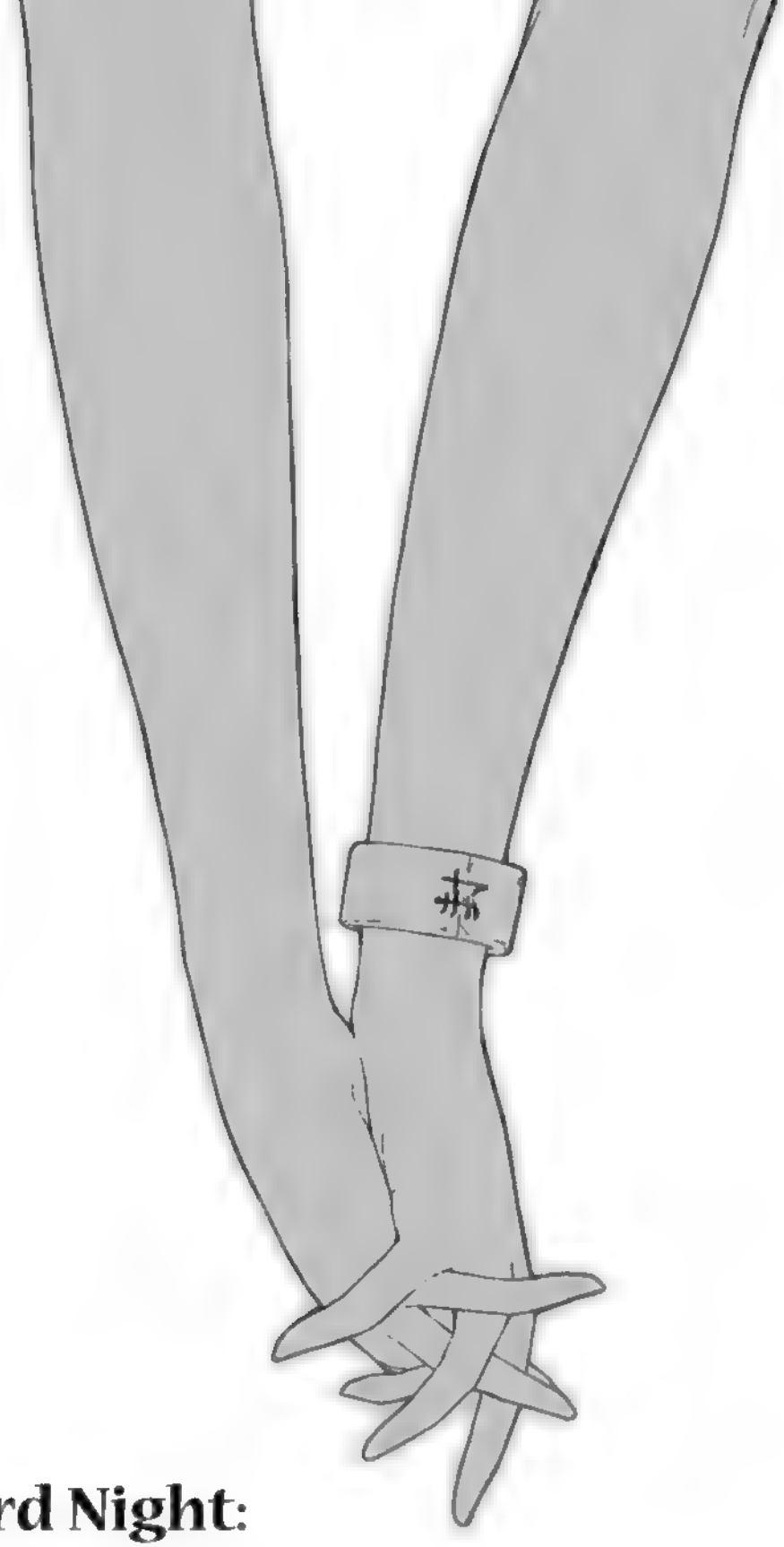
Hime and the gang resolved the mayoral election in the neighboring town. Now there are new problems, like Enjin and the Seven Pillars. But they are working hard every day, taking it one step at a time.

Yozakura Quartet Contents

Intro
Interlude
Sea of Stars (Part I)
Sea of Stars (Part II)
Epilogue

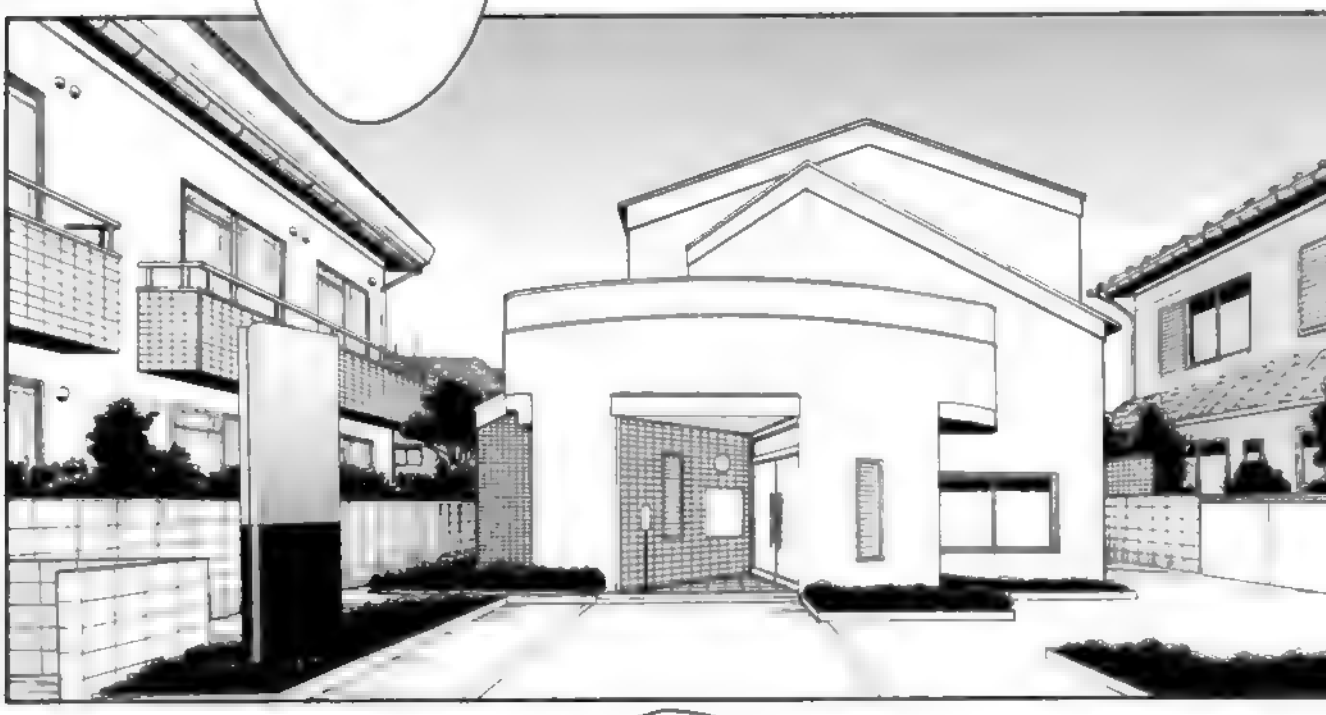
TROT
TROT
HUM-dee-dum.
HUM-dee-dum.
Akina-san has his physical exam today, huh?
PLIP
I can't let this opportunity pass by.
BUZZ
BUZZ
I never get a chance to be alone with him at the office because everyone is always there.

Hello!
Akina-san?
I'm here!
ガラッ
CLANG
Hey.
Oh. Hi, Touka.
You're here, too...
And Juri-san.
Oh. Hi, Hime-chan.



23rd Night: To Hold

I wasn't expecting Hime-chan, though.
Well, of course Juri-san is here.
SLURP



?
But I can't have Hime-chan get in my way every time...
SLURP

Okay, it all looks good.
I sense negative energy.

But Hime-chan...
You need to learn to control your powers.
HM?
PUMP
!
But I'm confident about my strength!
That's not what I'm talking about.
I'm stronger than she is!
Me!
Me!
M-Me, too!
Even though I don't like it.
Okay.
THUMP

I'll play with you both.
TWOINK
TWOINK
Come here.

Ready?
MUNCH
MUNCH
Okay.

GRIP
Go!
!
Huh?
UH...URGH!
URGH!
Huh?
Eep!
See?
Here.
Whoa
TUG
TUG
Ack
SPIN
SPIN
GRIP

When you master this, you'll strain yourself less and won't get hurt.
It's all about how you use your bones and muscles.
Even a pure human like me can overpower demons.
Don't always rely on strength, but use it well!

はい!!
Okay.

Oh.
Okay.
It's your turn, Akina-chan.
Okay.
In some ways, she's almost demon-like.
MUNCH

GULP
HMM.
You seem off today.
I...I don't think so.
Have you done a lot of tuning lately?
Are you sure?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
OWWWWW!
Oh, well.
Let's just do it.
GROW
GROW
Okay.

GRIP

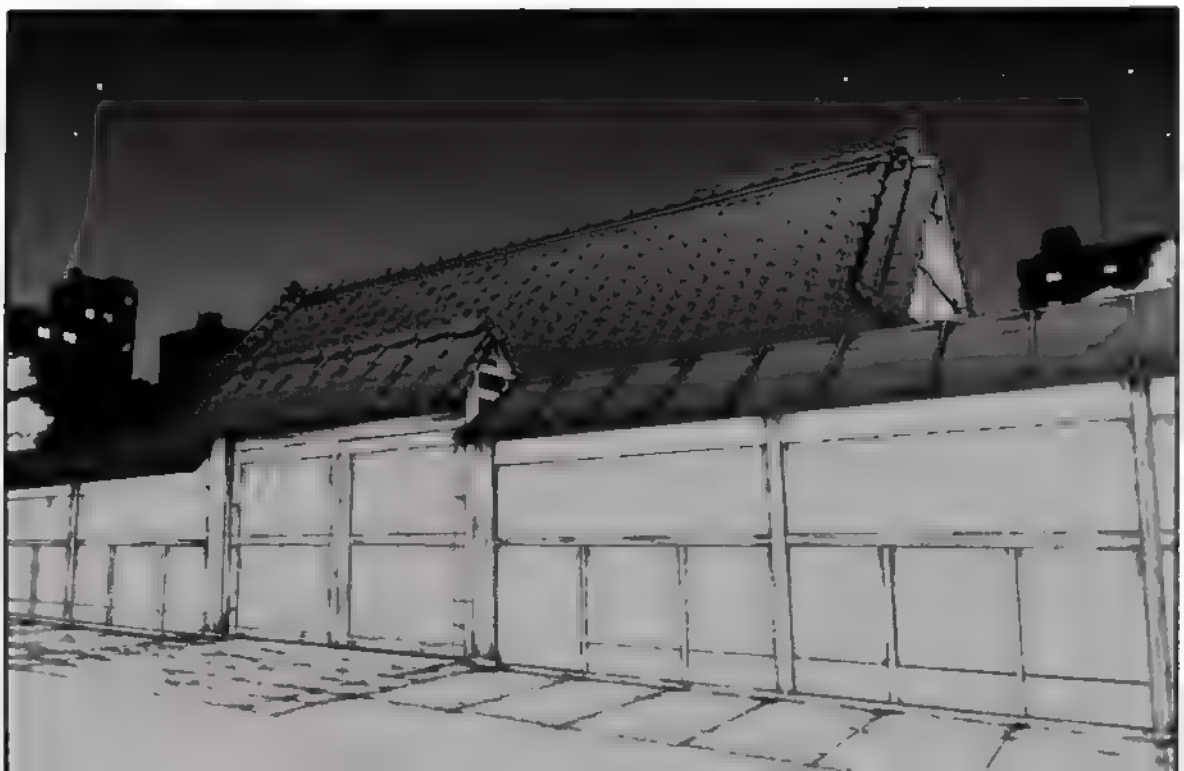
Mmph.
FLARE
Umph.

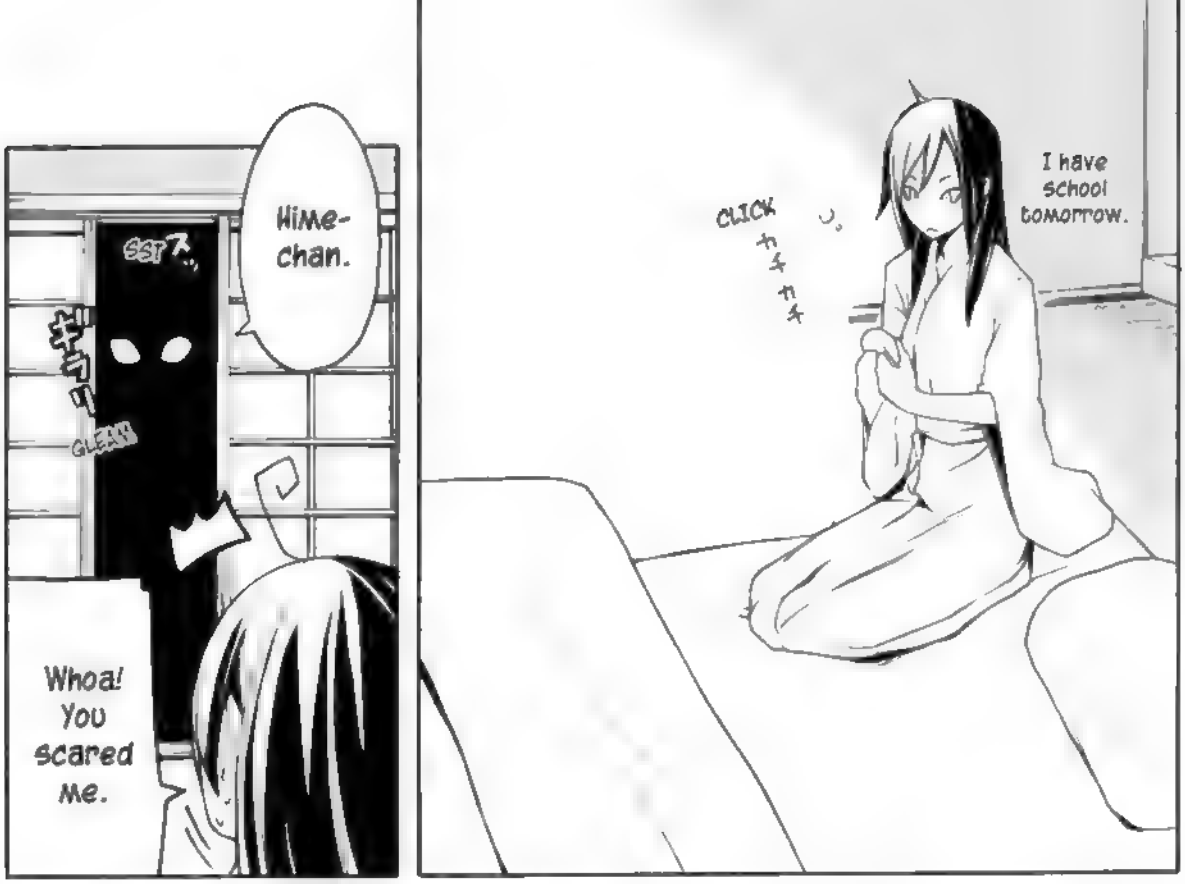
You're amazing, Juri-san.
I didn't do much.
Wow.
CLAP
CLAP
Come see me when you think you're off again.
All done.
RELEASE

When someone is OFF...
...another human...
...which is to say a creature from this world... needs to hold their hand to fix it.
So I didn't really do anything.
Does that mean...
If he made a dog give its paw...?
I don't know about that.
WOOF
...if a demon like me...
Or me... held his hand...
Mm, it probably wouldn't do anything.
A creature from this world....
So that means...

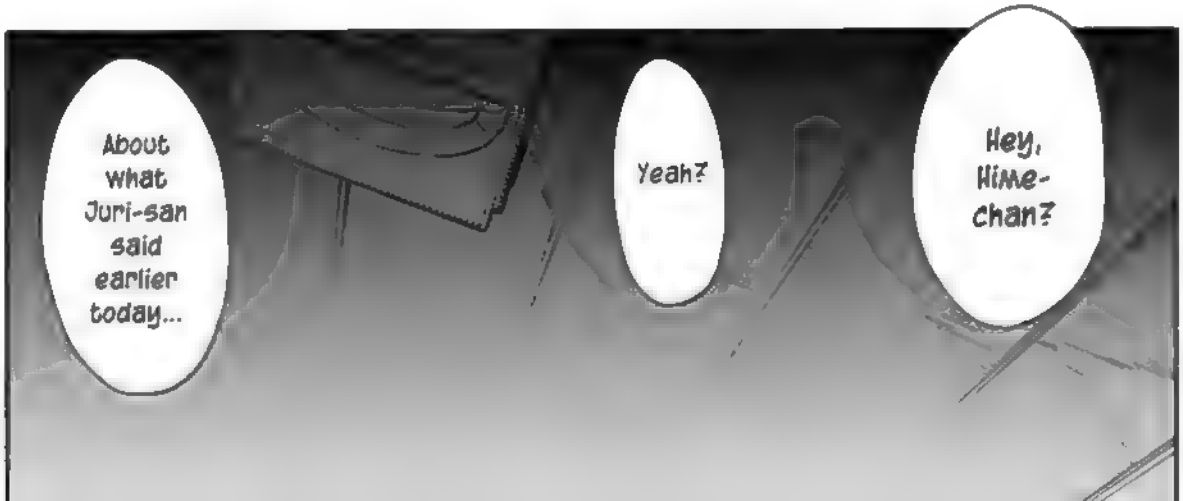
I see……

I feel better.




Hime-chan.
SST
GLEAM
Whoa! You scared me.
CLICK
I have school tomorrow.

?
Hime-chan. Can I sleep with you tonight?
Oh, it's you, Touka.


About what Juri-san said earlier today...
Yeah?
Hey, Hime-chan?

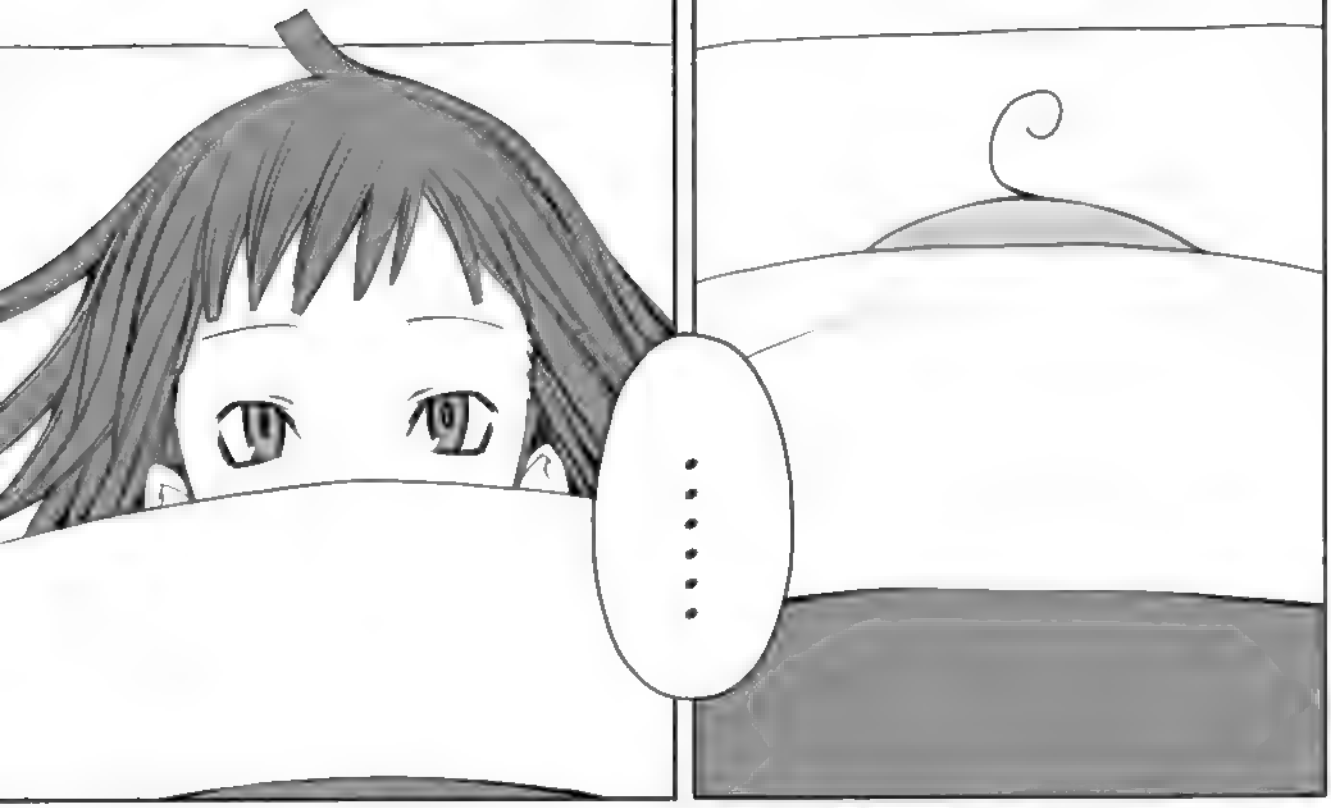
Nothing.
What do you think about it?
Yeah.
About how she can fix Akina-san by holding hands...

Can demons...

One more thing.
Yeah?

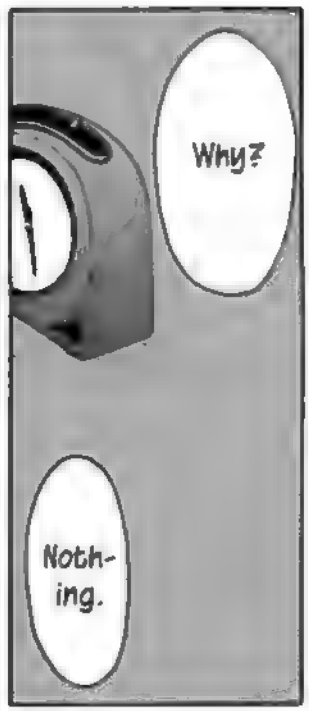
Yeah. I guess so.
She said demons can't do it, so it has nothing to do with us.

.....
Can they be happy?
...Fall in love...
...and humans...
If demons...

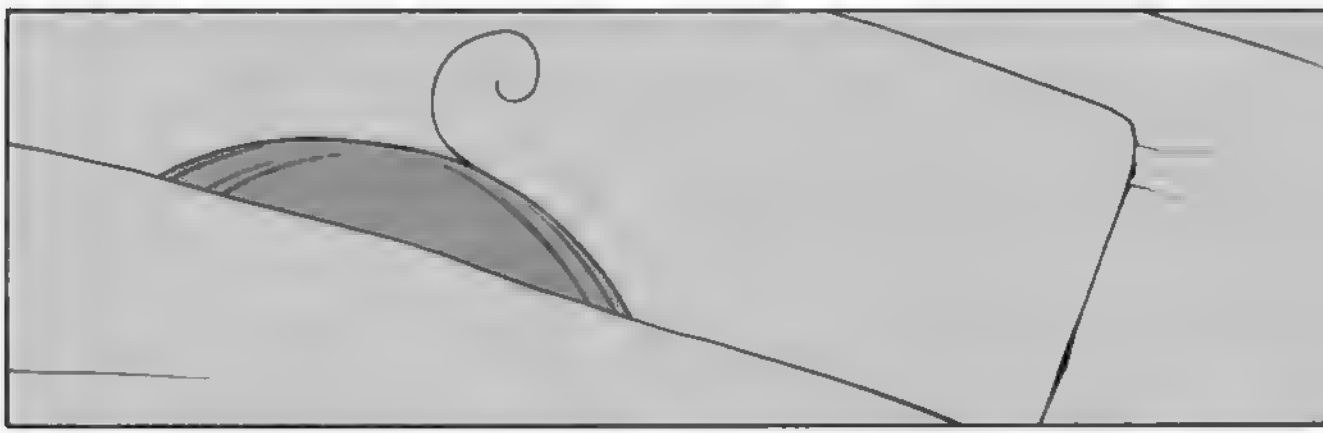

.....

I don't know.
I see.

LIFT


Why?
Noth-
ing.

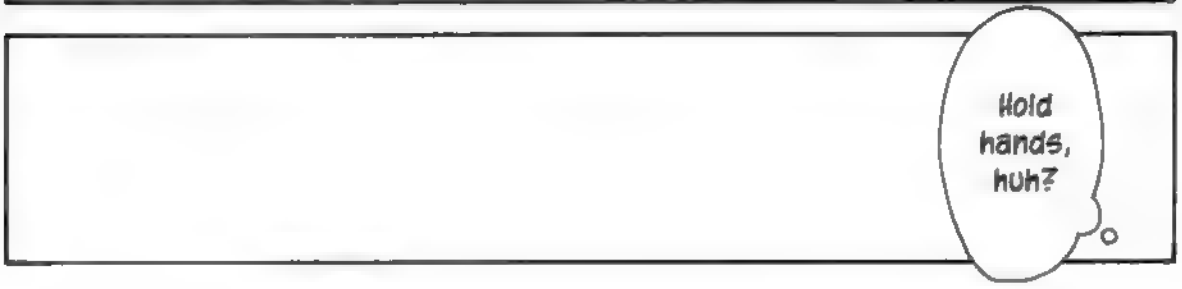
I want a reason to hold his hand.
Even if it's only to fix Akina-san...

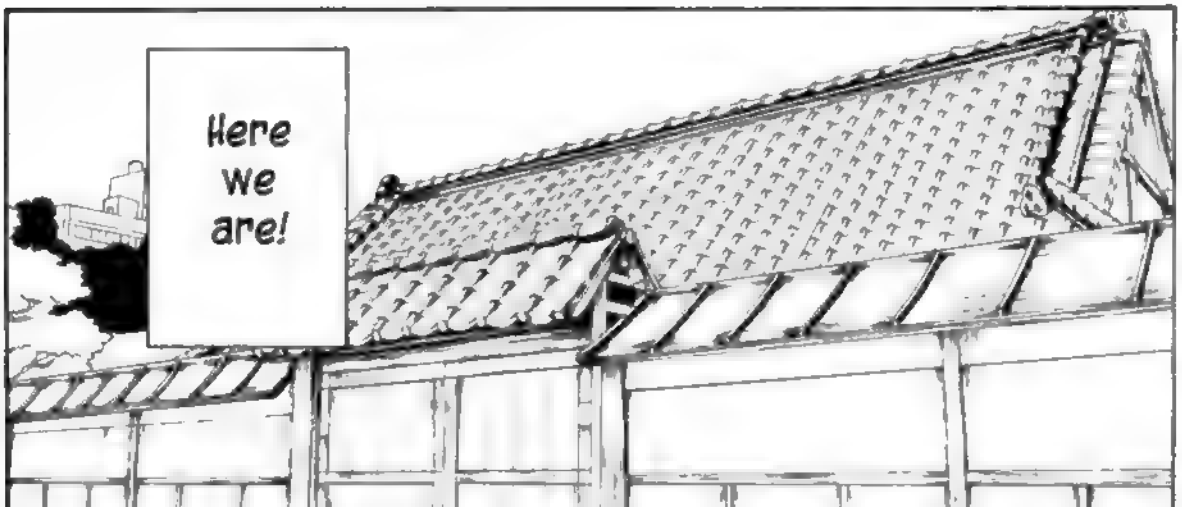


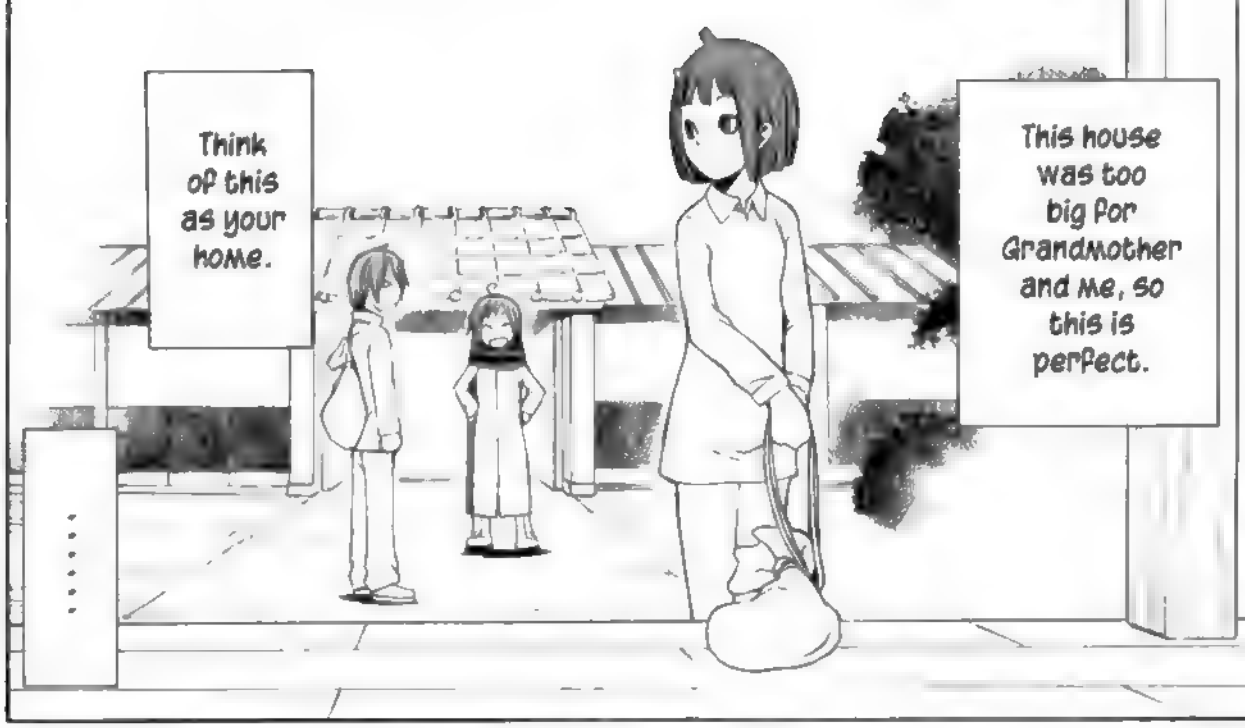
PEEK

I'll go to sleep, too.
RUSTLE
Huh?!
She fell asleep?

I'm still awake.
.....

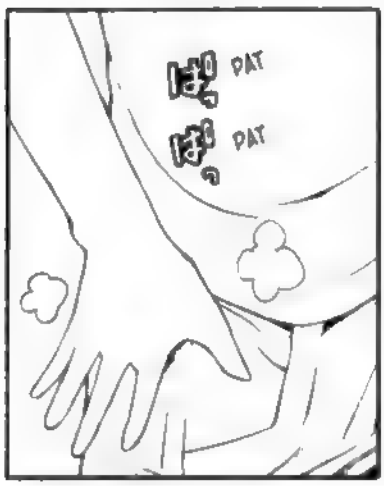

Hold hands, huh?


Here we are!

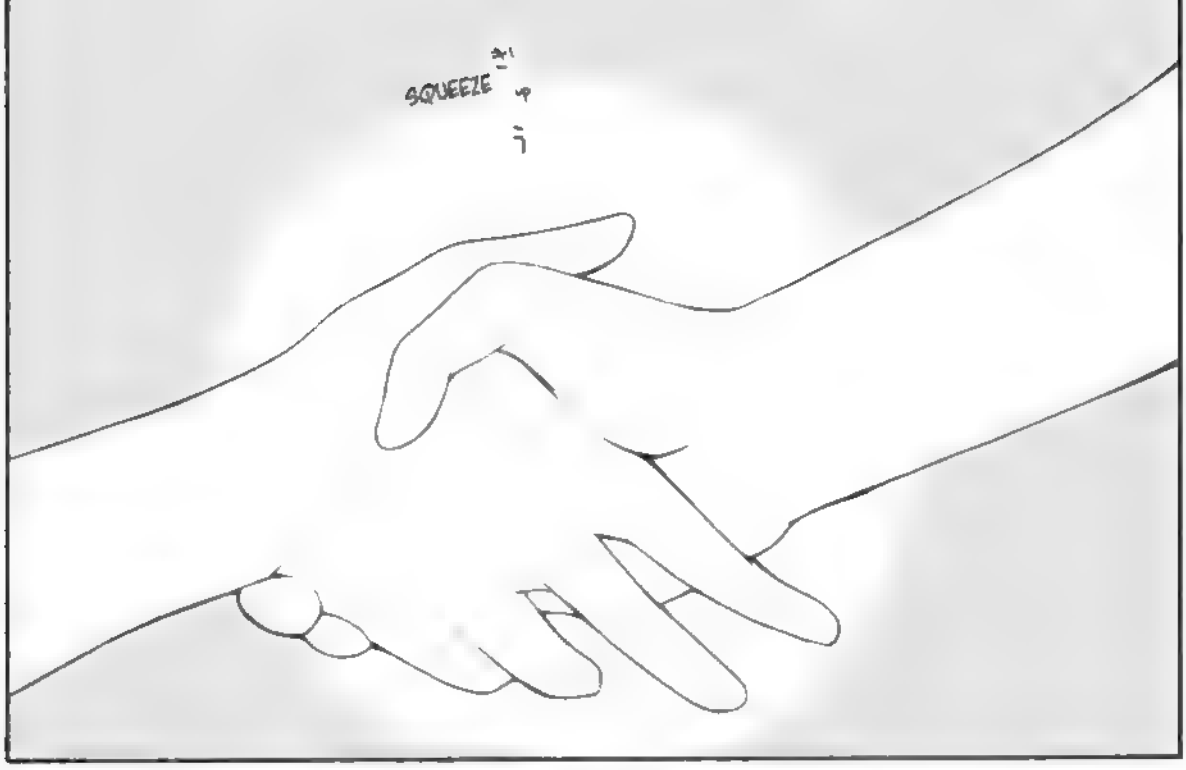

Think of this as your home.
This house was too big for Grandmother and me, so this is perfect.
.....

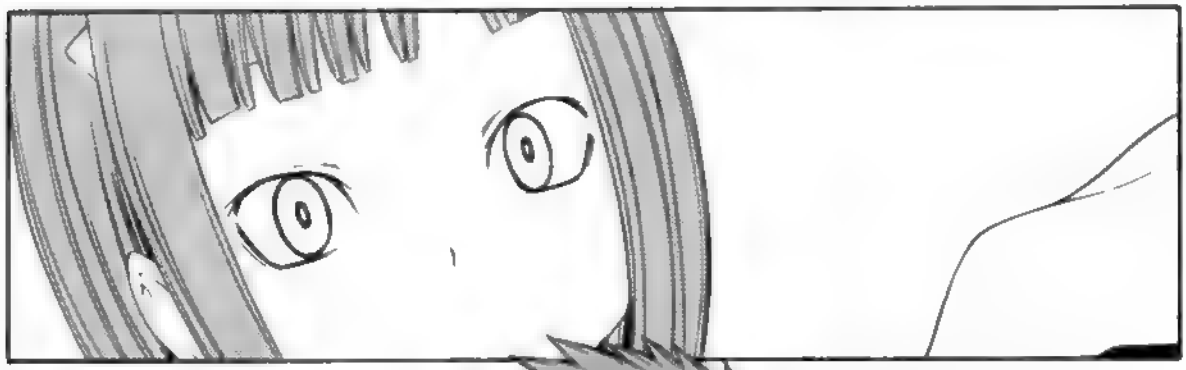
Oh, Akina.
CLIMB
Are they new?

Hey.


PAT
PAT

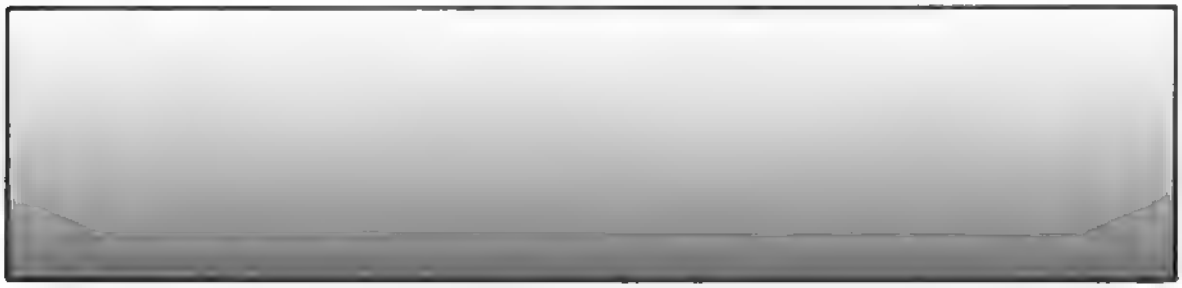
Sure thing!
Yeah. Can you be friends with them, too?


SQUEEZE



I'm Akina Hiizumi. Nice to meet you!

Ouch!
Nice to meet you, too!
GRAB
Wh-Why are you shaking my hand?!
It doesn't matter!
Nice to meet you!



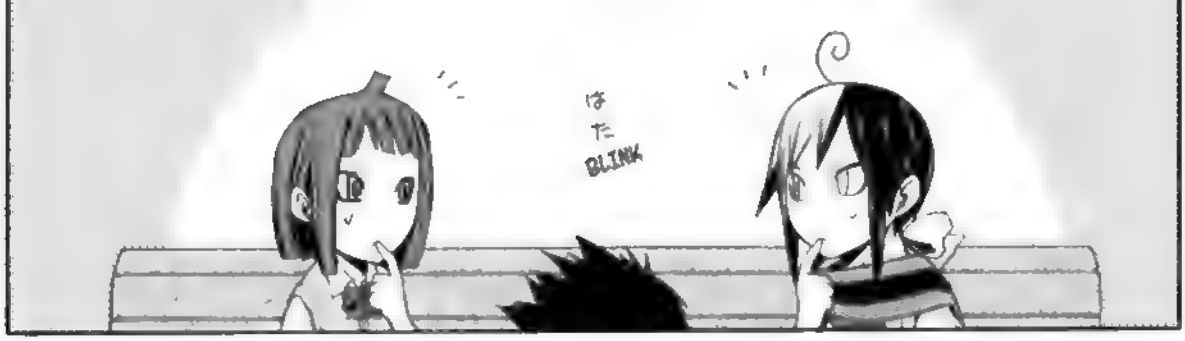
ACK!
TROD
TROD
TROD

Ack! We're late!
TROD
Why didn't Onii-chan wake us up?!
Four eyes!
'Cause you forgot to set the alarm, Hime-chan!
You're going to make it my fault?!
It's because you came into my room as I was setting it!
I remember now!
Ugh.
Th-That has nothing to do with it!
URGH
Toast (for being late)
SST
Ack!

Ahh!
WHAM
Akina!
Owww.
Why are you in your school uniform?
Oh.
Ouch.
Oh.
Holiday?!
Today's a holiday.

.....

STARE
Hold hands with Akina?
I haven't done that since we were kids.
SLURP


BLINK

TING
She must be thinking...!
TING
Demon power? No Girl power

You guys sure know a lot of things.
I can work your pressure points.
GRAB
Akina!
Let me read your palm.
You can do that?
GRR
GRAB
A-Akina-san.
Your hands are dirty. Let me wipe them for you.
Oh yeah?
HMPH

Agh.
Ugh.
I can paint his nails.
GRAB
CRACK
Argh.
I...I can straighten the bones in his fingers.
GRR
You're a klutz who forgets to turn on the alarm clock.
Can you get out of the way?
Geez, Hime-chan.
What? It's your fault!
You stay out of the way!
EEK
You let go of him!
Don't get in my way!
Cu...
Cu...

Cut it out already !!
BOOM
ACK!

Geez.

SAD
What are you guys trying to do to my hand?
THROB

It's because of what Juri-san said yesterday.
Oh.
Fixing me when I'm off?
She explained it to you guys.

Only humans can do it.
You two are both demons, so you can't do it.

.....

She said to learn how to use your powers.
But she told you one more thing.
Did you forget?
Oh.
Um.
No.
If both of you learned to use your powers better, then I probably wouldn't have to tune as much.
That'll help me a lot.
Got it?

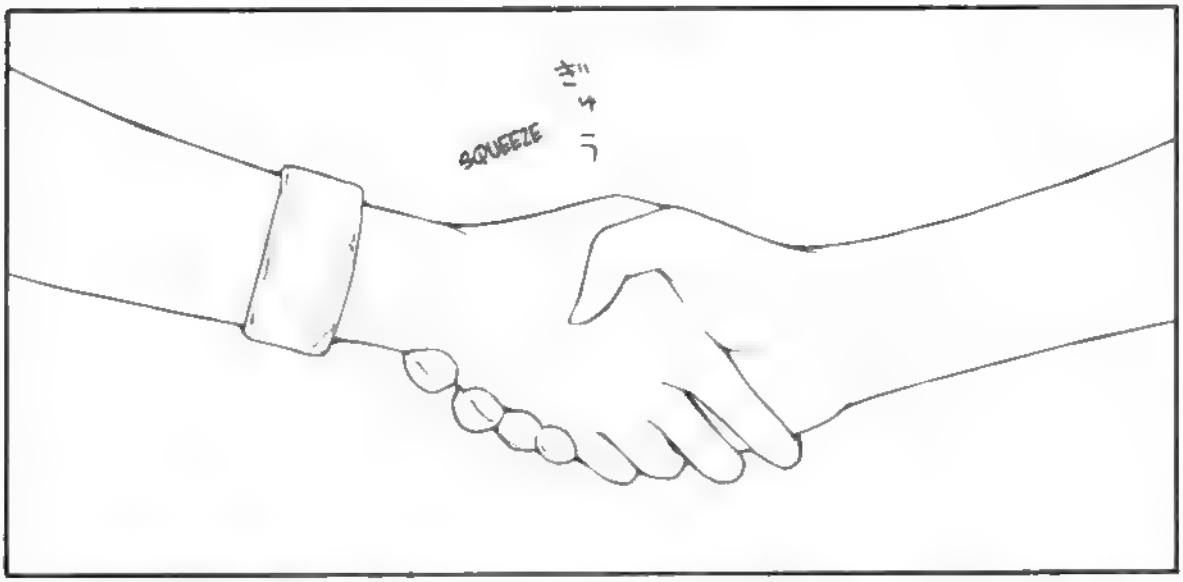
That's right.
Okay.
I understand.
Okay.
Sorry.

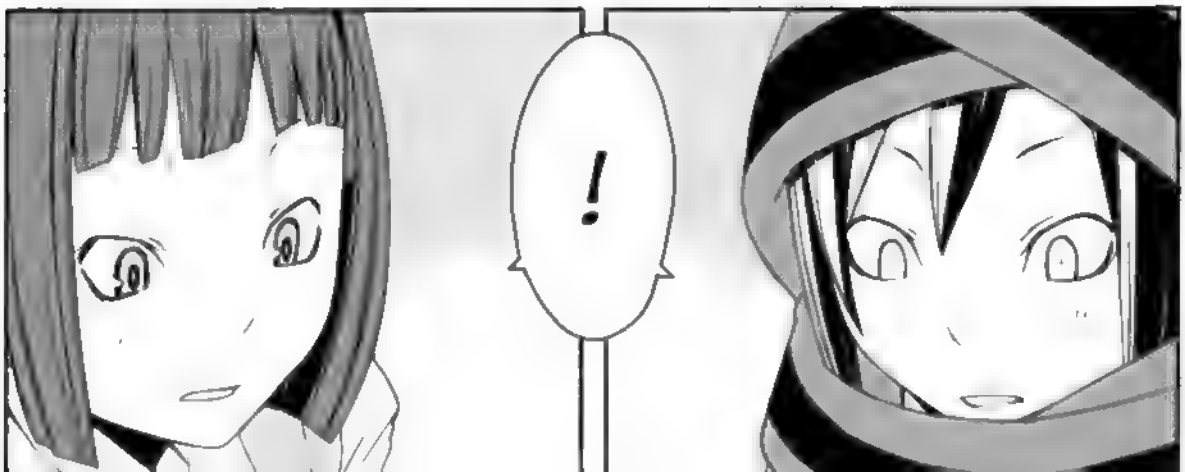
Th-That's because...
WIGGLE

It's so strange...
...that you guys are so into it.

I...
...wanted to...
...hold hands...
Me too.

Hold hands?

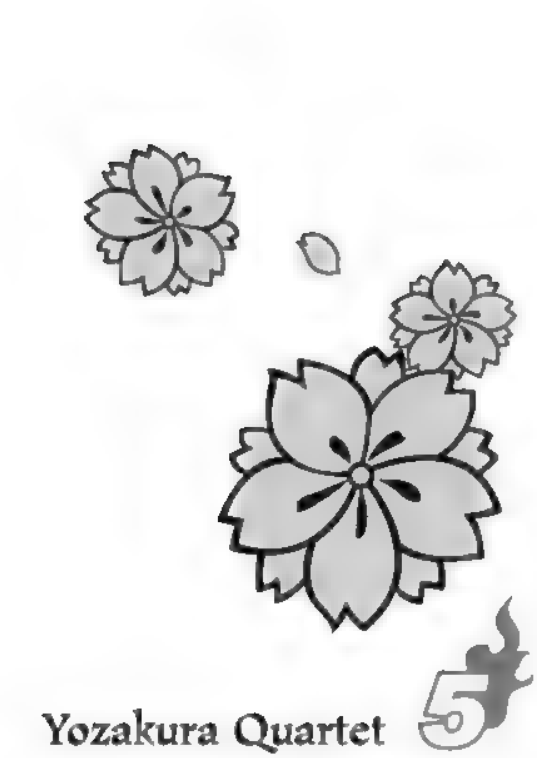

SQUEEZE
ぎゅっ


!

Like this?

?
SIGH

23rd Night: To Hold The END


Yozakura Quartet
5

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

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Pigeons like Touka

No way.
TROT
Huh? A Bear?
TROT
What was that?
Oh, that was Rin.
She said she saw a bear in the city.
PLIP
What? A bear?
Yeah.
I'm running errands, so I'll talk to you later.
That's not possible.
TROT
TROT
Yo!
ZZT
That's true.
We're not in the mountains, so there's no way.

Running errands?
Yes.
We're going to pick up some shackles and tags that Yae-san finished.

You sound like an old man, sir.
You ladies look mighty pretty today.
Hello.
Oh, District Mayor.

We were heading there, too.
Let's go together.
Okay.

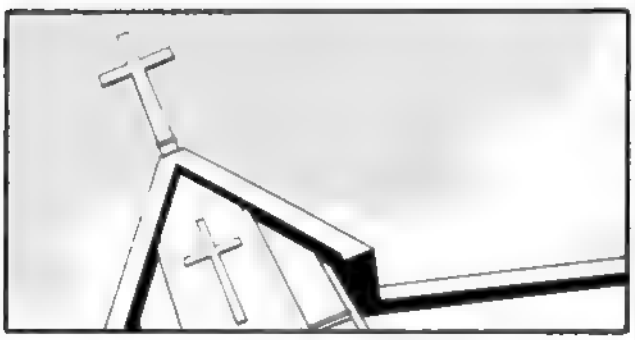
If we go first, you might grope us or something.
HA HA!
You guys are rude.
Don't mind them, sir.

What's wrong?
You go first.

24th Night:
City of God

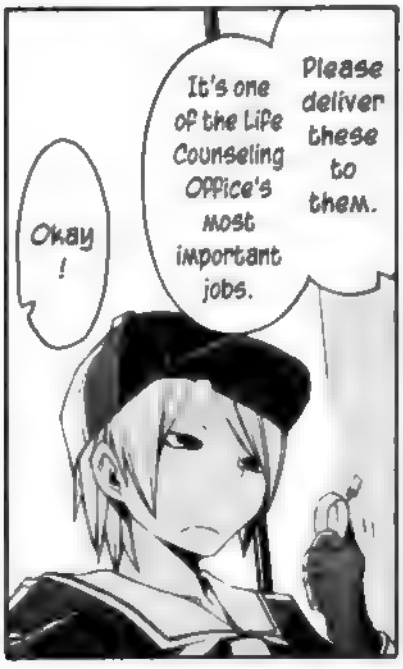
Well, hello.
Oh, you're here, too, Brother?

Don't mind them, sir.
You guys...
No harass-ment?
We're okay.
Are you okay? He didn't touch you or anything, did he?



Hello!
CLANG

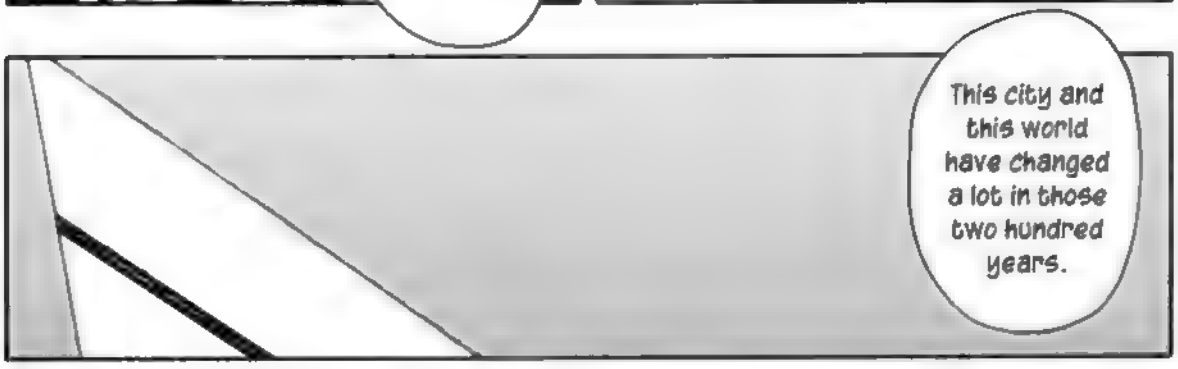
For Tanaka-san on Third Street. And Yokoyama-san on Second Street.
And this is for Narimatsu-san on Fourth Street.
Okay.


Please deliver these to them.
It's one of the Life Counseling Office's most important jobs.
Okay!

We got it.
Thank you very much!
Got it!

I can't believe you make all of these little things.
I couldn't do it.
I'm good with my hands.

I've been doing it for over two hundred years, so I'm used to it.
Two hundred years, huh?
.....


This city and this world have changed a lot in those two hundred years.

I guess that's how it is.
And they're not all bad, either.

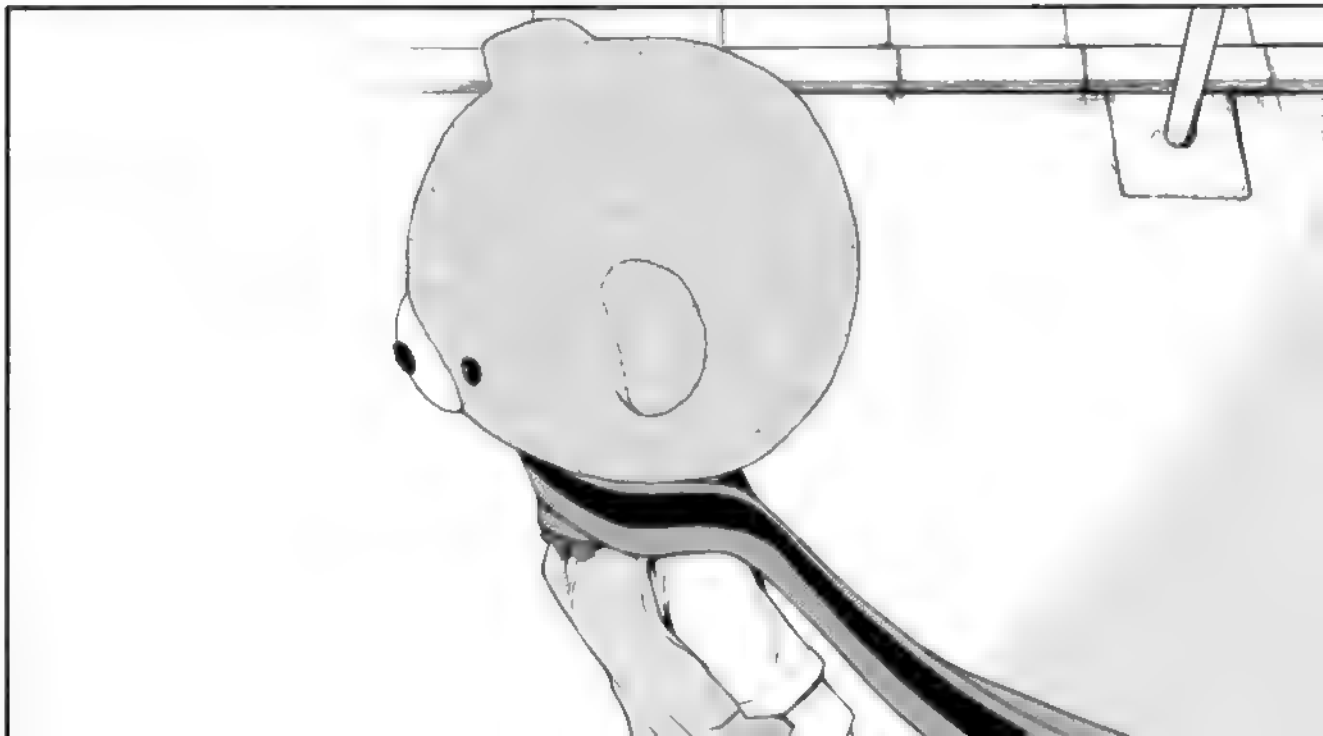
Well...
Huh?
BONK
BONK
I always welcome skirts getting shorter.
Hm...
ぴら
FLIP
Yae-san. I don't see the tag for Takagi-san on Fourth Ave.
Really?
Can you come with me?
I might have left it in my work-room.
はい!!
OKAY

I wonder if I should submit a report about him to the ethics board.
I'll help you.

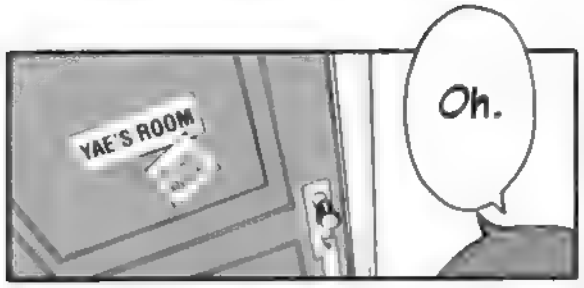
What? Huh?
Whoa!

What's wrong, Ao?
Whoa!

Sorry about my perverted brother.
TMP
TMP
It's okay.
I'm used to it.



I...I'm guessing that's you, Hime-san?
Hello?
Oh, you're all here.
Everything all right?
Wh-What's that?
I rented it for the Festival.
But they said I could keep it because it's old.
So I kept it.
I see.
キラキラ
SPARKLE
What are you going to use it for...
はぁ, はぁ


YAE'S ROOM
Oh.

I'm not that happy.
Y-You're not a kid anymore, so you shouldn't be so happy to wear that thing.

CLICK
Is this Yae-san's room?
Let me take a look.
あ
OH!

おお
WHOA.
OH.

...? Bears.
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
Kotoha-chan...
You shouldn't look at people's private things.
Ack! I'm sorry!
Oh, how cute.
GLEAM
I don't have any use for it.
What?
GLEAM
Do you want this, Yae-san?
SMILE
SMILE

She looks so happy.
HUG
もじもじ
HUG
You were on patrol, Hime?
You're so spirited.
It's my daily routine.

You have the best rate in the district and even in all of Eastern Japan.
WOW.
SMILE

Both the crime rate and arrest rate are lower than average.
Our city has a low crime rate, right?

Oh yeah.
GETS UP
Of course it does!
Although we don't know if patrolling affects that.

There's a group of burglars that's been going around the state.
I came to tell you guys about it because the neighboring city was hit recently.
Mm!
That's horrible! I need to step up my patrol!
HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!
ROLL
Don't worry about it.
Geez! You're always so easygoing about these things!
HUFF HUFF!
BEAR
ROLL
You are a young woman, after all.
I told you before.
But you can't patrol at night, okay?
I know.
Plus I get sleepy at night.

That's how it was designed.
Don't worry. It's difficult for crime to happen in this city.

?

I am...
...the land god of this city.

A land god doesn't exist because a city has been built.

THUMP
A city is built because a land god was there.

This city is me.

Yes.

Well, let's start...

...the night patrol.

Someone's doing something bad to my city.
I feel it as if they were doing it to my body.

Hm.
TWITCH

The wealthiest looking house...
SST

All right.
SST
Okay.
Let's get this done and get out of here!

SCREECH

!
Stop it right there!
Damn! Is that the police?!
BAM

I should go out like this every night.
ちゃっ

Why a bear?
A bear?!

POW
ACK!
POW
Gah!

BLAM
Surrender!

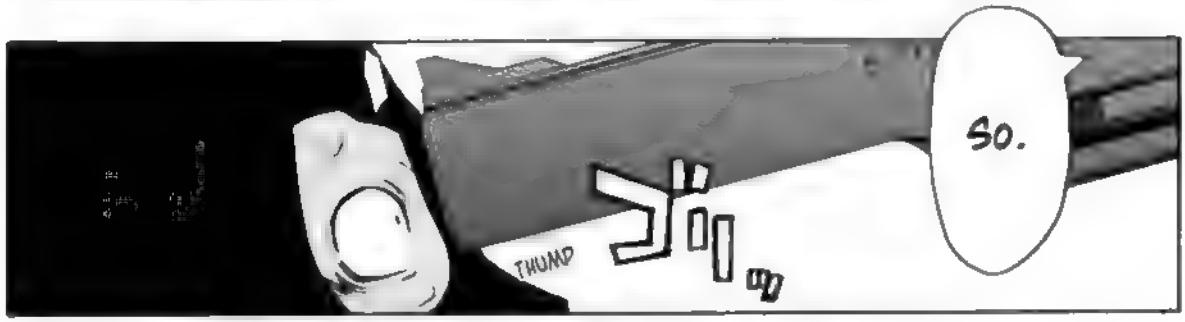
THUD
ばた
ばた
THUD
Hey!
Don't worry. It's not fatal.
CLINK

CLICK
Tsk.
ROLL
Hey, get up, you rats!
Good-for-noth-ings.
KICK
GRAB
Don't get in our way.
.....

CLINK
.....
I guess I'll tie you up until we're done.
GRIP
!
Don't do anything stupid.
THUD
!
Why...
Why you...!
BLAM

KA-BOOM
Don't worry.
It's not fatal.

CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
So dangerous these days.
A gun, huh?
Eeeek!


THUMP
So.

Russian roulette.
Let's begin...

R-Russian...?
Oh, it's not one out of six, but five out of six.
Hardcore version!!
F-Five out of six?!

!
CLICK

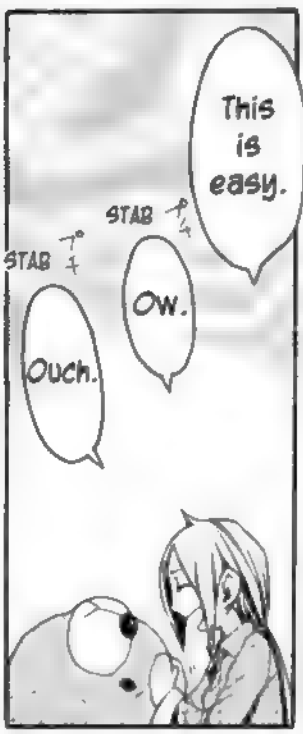
Eek!
THUMP
Well, then.
CLICK
Oh, you're lucky.

GRIP
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Dear Lord...
It's good to be pious.
You're begging the gods, now?
Oh.
THUMP
Yes.
You're in luck.
You're really in luck.

Because...
...you're looking at a god.

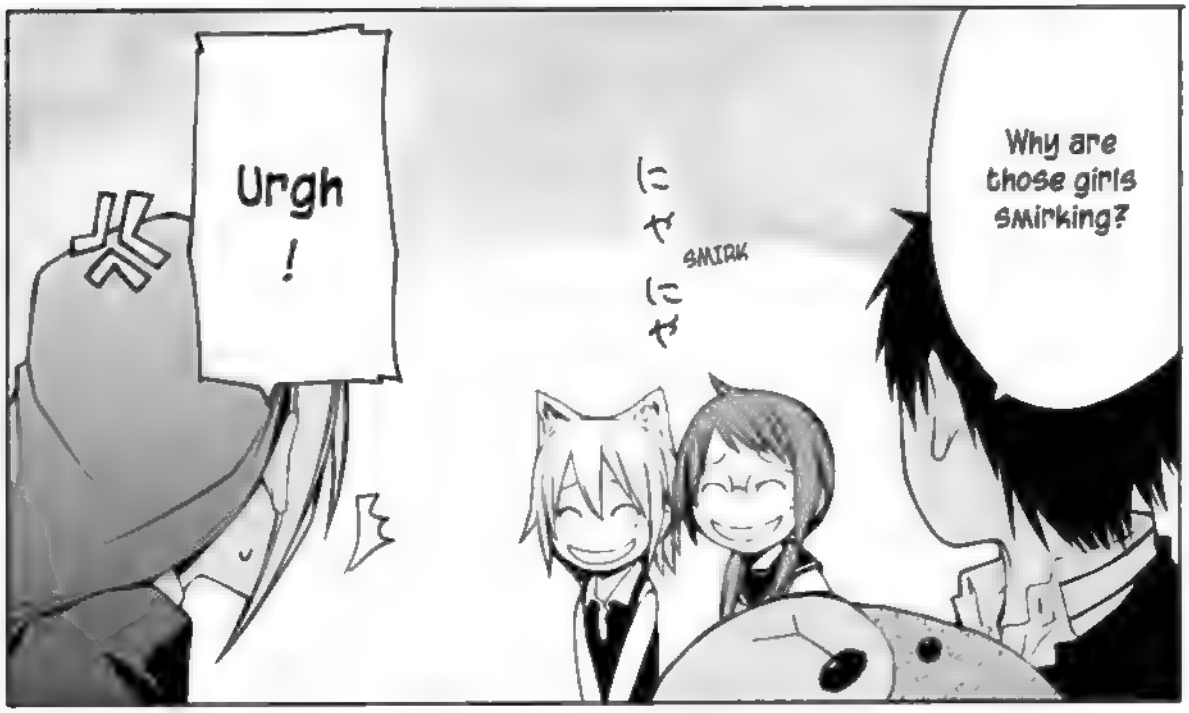
EEEE
CLICK
It's empty.
Just kidding.

hum-dee-dum.
So.
Time to fix Mr. Bear now.

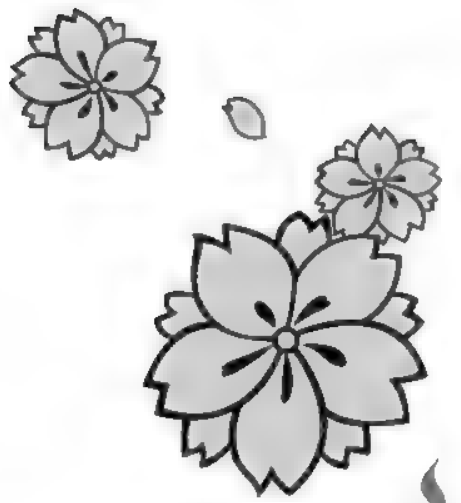

This is easy.
STAB
Ow.
STAB
Ouch.

I'm good with my hands, so this is a cinch.
STAB
Ouch.

It's no problem.
What is this bear, anyway?
STITCH
STITCH
THANKS!



24th Night: City of God The END



Yozakura Quartet 5

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

5

Morning Mass

TIC TOC
TIC TOC
TIC TOC
TIC TOC
TIC TOC
TIC TOC
TIC TOC
TIC TOC

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CLICK
FLINCH
FLINCH
FLINCH
Argh!
TAP
WAKE UP
Yawn.
Morning already?

25th Night: Overlapping

Don't worry about preparing the soup. Eat your breakfast.
Or you'll be late.
Houran
Rin-chan.
STIR
STIR
Oh, I'm almost done.
I'll eat it soon.
RATTLE
Tsk.
You won't beat me for another ten years.
I won't lose next time, Jinroku-ojii-san.
Aw, darn it.

I'm so blessed.
RUB
RUB
S-Sir?
Y-Your beard is hurting me!
You helped prepare the stock again.
GRAB
Ohhh, Rin!
You're such a hard worker!
SQUEEZE
BONK
Stop it already.
Of course.
RUSTLE
I'm the one who's blessed.
They've been so good to me.
I've been under their care for two years.

You're going to be late.
Rin-chan.
ガチャ
CLICK
Oh.
Oh.
.....
Let's go, ma'am!
I'm going to be late.
SWISH
Oh yeah. I'll leave soon.
PLOP

Hmm.
Hmm.
Let's see.
TMD
You're going to be late.
DASH
I should check on it before I go.
Okay.
Just a little bit longer.
Whoa.
CATCH
TOSS
Don't forget this.
I'm leaving.
RATTLE
RATTLE

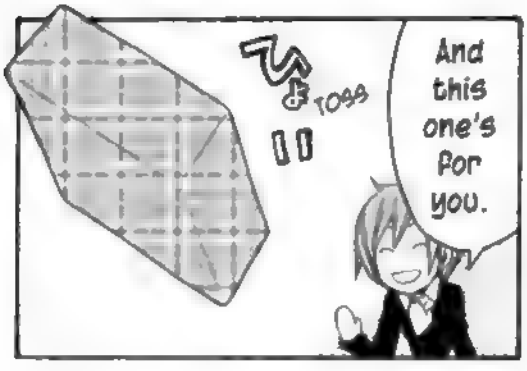
WAVE
WAVE
WAVE
I'M going now!
Okay!
ばた DASH ばた

Hey!

Good morning!
She looks more tired than usual.
First period is PE, so I made her wear it.
Yeah.
Why is she wearing gym clothes?

Good morning!
Moop mornin'...

I see.
She went to the Senate yesterday, so she's tired.
ぐぐぅぅ
ZZZ


And this one's for you.
ひょ TOSS

She's so busy.
Here's your lunch.
もて TROD
もて TROD
THANKS!
あり

Morning! And thanks!
Gotcha!
CATCH
Please wait 'til noon... Oh, she's already eating it!
It's your lunch!
I'll eat it on my way to school!
MUNCH
MUNCH
TROD
TROD

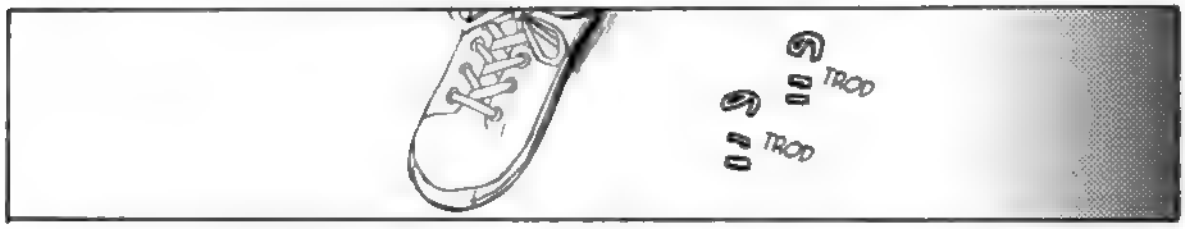
Okay.

I've made lots of human friends.
You're going to be late!
Not that I'm upset or anything.
We are demons, so we have to go to the school within the city.

Tokyo Express
Kotoha-chan is a half-demon, so she's allowed to go to school in another district.

BR-RING
BR-RING
All done!
Phew.
DASH
Okay then.
Chinese Food
RATTLE
I'M leaving now!
Chinese Food
SLAM
I'M home!

Let's see. It's the rice cracker shop... Takada-san's place.
As usual.
I love their rice crackers.
Should I buy some there?
Hello!
ガラガラ RATTLE


TROD
TROD

Hey, Rin!
Oh.

HM?

I'll take it.
Would you like a bag?
I wonder if I looked hungry.
I bought some, and they gave me another bag.
What's with those rice crackers?

Okay, see you later.
I have a doctor's appointment today.
See ya.

PLIP
I should let Hime-chan and Touka-chan know.
PLIP
Appoint-ment...?

Rin
Well, then.
I can finish prepping all day tomorrow.

TROT
TROT
Oh, I should head back now.

She's okay, so help with the restaurant!
Geez!
CROWDED
It's always like this.
What if Rin's lost or something?
Hey, how do you send a text message?

It's a nice day out today.
TROD
TROD
TROD
Mmmmm!
CHIRP
RATTLE
Aek!
TROD
TROD
TROD
Huh?
Hey, Kotoha-chan.
TROD
Aren't you going to be late for school, Rin?
Oh, Morn-ing!
TROD

Today's a holiday.
But...
THUD
SLIDE

I bet there are others who forgot, too.
Like two others.
I don't think so.

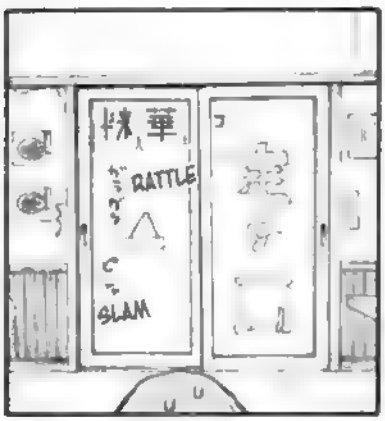
Shoot! We could have chosen not to go?
Ouch.
It's not a choice

Hey!
Oh.

Darn. I guess I'll go to the office, then.
I'll call you for a lunch delivery.
OKAY.
HONK

Are you doing breakfast today?
I forgot to eat this morning.
Oh.
Oh, thanks.
We can open the restaurant.
Just wait a moment.
Oh, hey...
SLAM
Well, maybe for a little bit.
Oh yeah.
You're an officer, too!
You can't park there!
Oh.
You really can't, Shidou-kun.
にっこり
SMILE
Ma'am!
Oh, good morning! Okay, I'll move immediately!
She surprised me.

She has a lot of power sometimes.
That's right!
I'll leave it at the station!
WASH
WASH
Phew.
Oh yeah.
I have to ask the office what they want to order.
BEEP
Oh, is this Kotoha-chan?
About the delivery...
RATTLE


RATTLE
SLAM

FWIP
It's crowded.

FWIP

M-Ma'am! A bear! There's a bear!
What's wrong?

EH!?
What?!
B-B-Bear?!
Kotoha-chan, th-there's a bear! A bear!
Huh, a bear?

I don't look like a bear!
Maybe.
Oh, that's true.
We're not in the mountains... Are you sure you didn't mistake my husband for a bear?
PHEW.
You're so mean!
Your beard hurts!
The owner is so silly.
BUZZ
PHEW
Oh well.
SWING
SWING

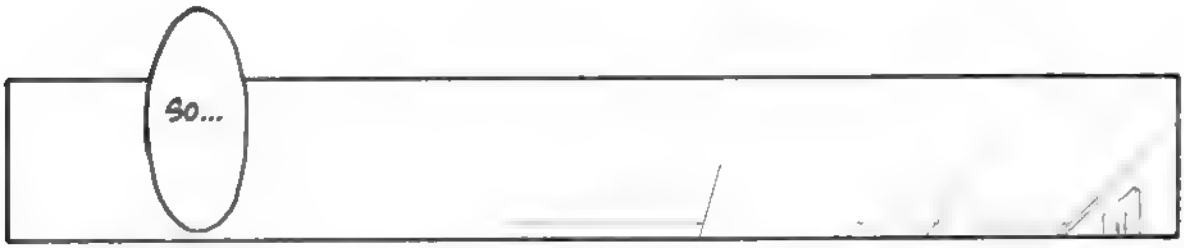
Let's see now.
SLAM
CLICK
MMM

Oh.
Hello!
'Cause there's no smoking inside the church.
Ahh. This tastes sooo good.

HM...
I guess this is good timing.

Hey!
Oh, Akina.
Hurry up and come back to the office, guys.

?
Some-where we can talk quietly.
Let's go some-where.
All right.


So...

RATTLE
Why did you come here? Huh?!
Don't be such a nitwit.

Oh yeah, I should bring it out.
Listen to me!
What should I eat?

Hurry up and sit down!
Oh, hello.
Oh, hello, ma'am!

I gathered you guys today because...
THUMP
Well...
Enjin is really starting to prepare...
...for the Blossoming of the Seven Pillars.
!
I'm sure the grudge from his ancestors is no small thing.
THUMP
Last time, he was just checking you all out. Testing your strength.
THUMP
If things go on as is, this city will...

It's all done!
It's perfect!
TA-DAH!

GASP

I-I'm sorry. I just wanted to show a new ramen I've been working on...
New ramen ?!
Ramen sensor
FLINCH
L-Let me have a bowl of that.
Me, too.
Us, too.
.....

CLICK
Fine. Eat. But listen to what I have to say.
Enjin's been working on his own so far.
But he teamed up with the enemy. They're called "demon hunters."
And he gathered the best of them all.
...!
Dragon killers, vampire hunters...
Exorcists...
Oh yeah.
And Necro-mancers, too.
CRASH

Uh...
Um...
Necro-
mancers
...?

Some of
you may
know
them
already.

The
peaceful
days are
about to
end.
SQUEEZE

At this rate, there's no chance for any of the demons in this town.
It's just a matter of time before everything is taken.
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
Why are you eating, too?!
But this is good, sir.
Incredible!
It's so good!
Hey, are you listening?! You're all eating!
SLURP
CRUMPLE
Your new menu is great!
CREAK
Thanks for the meal!
Geez.
THUMP

We leveled up!
Me, too!
We're all powered up now...
...So we're ready!
Me, too!
Me, too.

Hey, guys...
BUZZ
BUZZ
I'll continue my patrol.
OKAY.
Let's go back to the office and work some more.

Shut up, Yoshi-boy.
They gotcha there, District Mayor.
Heh heh.
RATTLE
SLAM

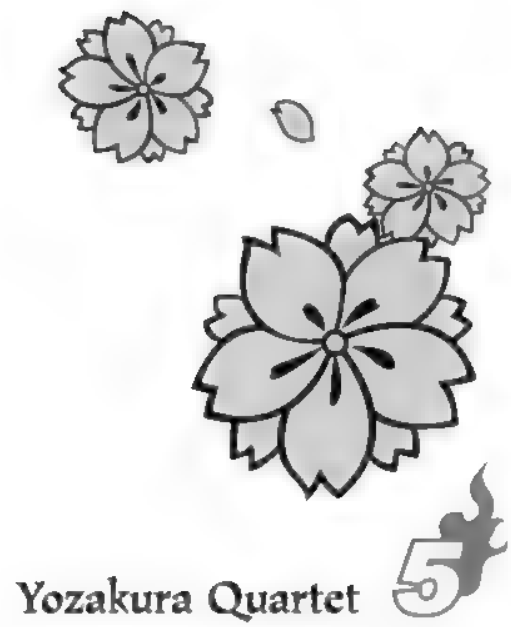
Are you still gonna call me that?
Heh.
You're just a kid, even at fifty.
By the way, District Mayor...
You got it wrong.
Huh?
It's a town for humans and demons.
But this isn't a demon town.
Usually Hime and the other demons protect this town.
If the demons are in trouble...
GRAB
That's what it's about.
...the humans will protect the demons.

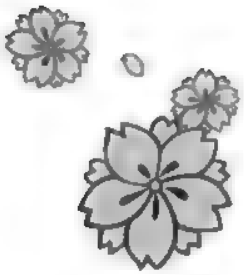
What are you saying?
It's not just the demons, but the whole world that's in trouble.
What? Is that true?
And please...
there's no way a human can fight against a demon.
We should let Hime-chan and Shidou-kun handle them.
THUMP
Uh...
Oh, but...
CHOP
...the Necro-mancer that Rin knows...
LIFT

...So bring her to me, all right?
...I want to talk to her...
SLURP
Rin.
You're one lucky girl.
Hmph.
CLICK

25th Night: Overlapping The END

*Approx. $35


Yozakura Quartet
5



Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

5

New Ramen Recipe
Good ramen for Hime's health
Low-fat version

KICK
The Seven Pillars...
The key to the tuning that attracts demons.
But the truth is they're Trojan Horses that Enyou Hiizumi sent to this world.
Doesn't matter either way to me.
CRUMBLE
THUMP
Because of this...
...My dead toy is here.
KICK
KICK
Hey.
Are you listening?

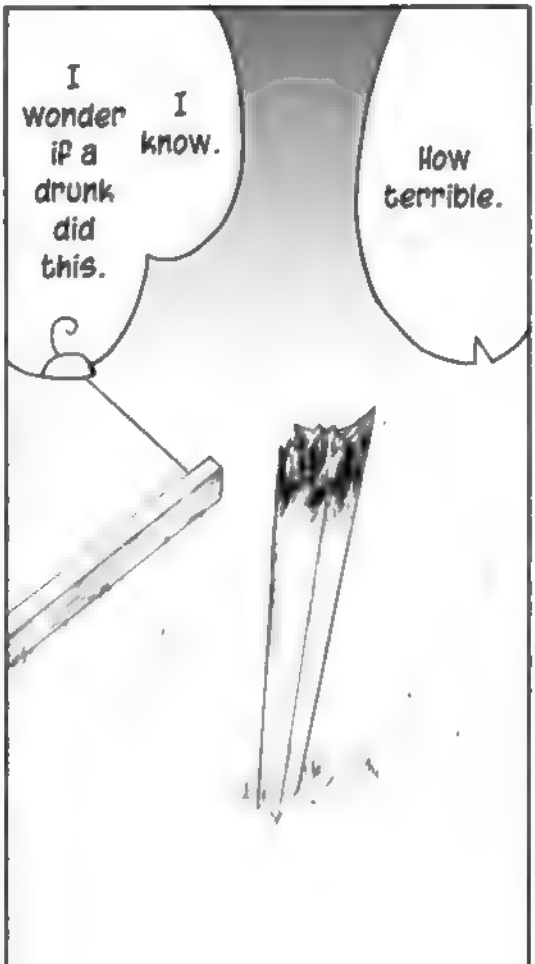
26th Night:
Sea of Stars (Part 1)
I came to take her back.
You thief.

RIN
.....
What's wrong?
Oh, nothing.
It's just that...
?
Oh?

What are you doing?
Look at this.

Hm?
Hey, Hime-chan!

How easily they forget...
ANGRY
People should be more responsible when they drink!


I wonder if a drunk did this.
I know.
How terrible.

My head is kinda...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
What's wrong, Rin-chan? You look pale.
Oh.
It came on so suddenly.
Did you catch a cold?
You should keep warm and sleep when you have a cold!
I'll go with you, so let's head home.
That's good.
I'll take care of the sign.
I appreciate it.
Thanks.
KLUTZ

You're going to gain weight.
Let's go.
Eat, huh?
And I'll eat something there, too.
See you later, Juri-san.
Okay.
I see.
Memo
I have an urgent message, so I have to find him.
I exercise.
You guys are coming, too?
Akina went to lunch and left his cell phone behind.
Okay. Thank you.
Rin-chan, if it gets worse, please come see me.

.....
Let's fix it.
Well then.....
!

It's rotted.....?
.....?

Chinese Food
RATTLE
That was delicious.
HM?
There he is.
Hey!
TMD
TMD
Here.
What? Really?
Sorry about that.
You forgot your cell phone, Akina.
Why are you all together?
Geez.

TWITCH
!
It's from the Senate.
What did they say?
They want him to go see them about the demon hunters.
.....
I wonder if the demon hunters...
.....
About the demon hunters?
I'll just defeat them as they come.
Right, Akina?
Hit and toss.

Huh?
Which are they?
...or demons.
...are humans...

Well...
What do you think, Akina?

That's true.
But if they can fight against demons, maybe they're demons.

Yeah.
Since they hunt demons, aren't they human?

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
If my instincts are right...

...I think it's a little more complicated than that.
?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
?
?
Then it'll be up to me to deal with them.
Maybe.
At the Senate, I mean.
Maybe that's what they want to talk about.

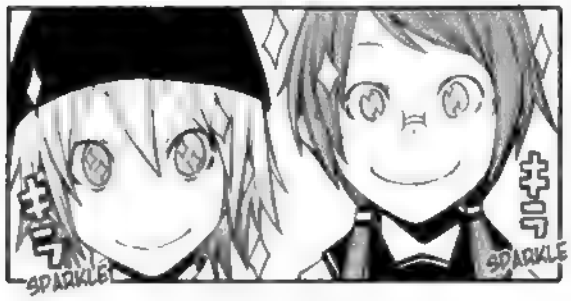
If you're gonna do that, give the scarf back!
S-Sorry.
Don't take it away.
I mean...
Ugh!
No!
SWISH
GRAB
Then I'll go.
CRUMPLE
Okay.

You shouldn't go, Akina.
After what happened last time, can you stay calm?

UM...

GRAB
SWISH
That's right.

You guys...
There's only two of you.
I think that's good.
Have them go, Akina.


SPARKLE
SPARKLE

Hey!
.....

TA-DAH
If it's just to hear them talk, we can go instead.
Yep!
The Four Lords of Hizumi Life Counseling Office.

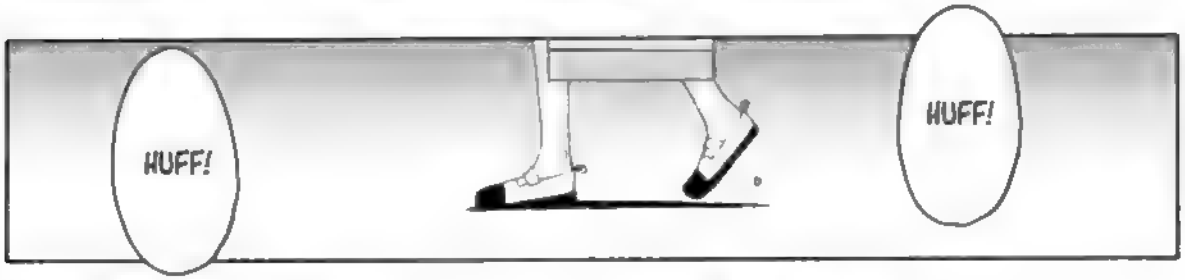
You guys want to go shopping, don't you?
GULP
I want to buy summer clothes.

Let's go!
We'll see you later!
DASH
Hey!
Oh well. Be careful.

I'm getting dizzy.
Are you all right?
RATTLE
Oh.
DAZED
Rin, you're really looking pale.
Huh?
PHEW.

You're back, Rin?
I was just about to go make the deliveries, as you were running late.
I'll go.
Are you sure?
I'm fine! I'll deliver these and then rest.
You don't feel well?
Takei-san's house?
It's close by, so it's no big deal.
See ya!
Oh.
.....
I wonder if she'll be okay?

A Jiang Shi, sick...?


HUFF!
HUFF!

I need to go deliver this and...
TWITCH

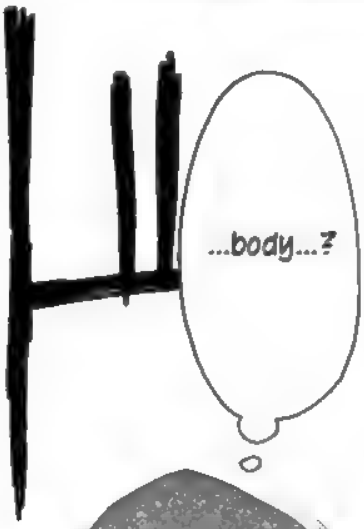
I-I guess I'M not doing so well.
HMMM.

Huh?
What's wrong with my...
GRAB

!

SNAP

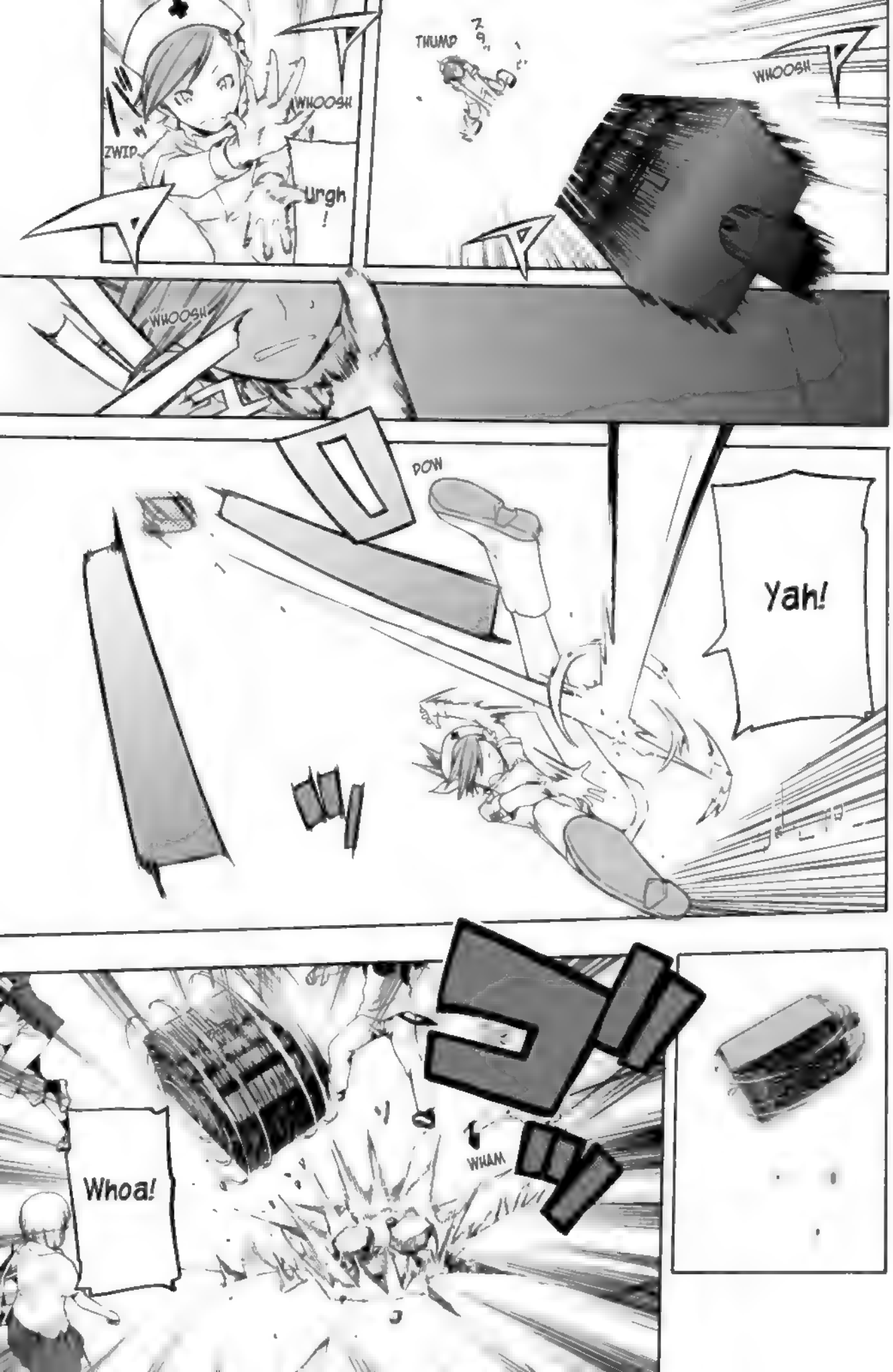
TWITCH


...body...?

?!
TH-THUMP

Let's go to the clinic.
GRAB
Geez.
THD
THD
You don't look good.
You shouldn't be working.
CRASH
Oh.
FLING

ZWISH
...!
Yah !
BAM
BAM
BOOM


ZWIP
WHOOSH
Urgh !
THUMP
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
DOWN
Yah!
Whoa!
WHAM

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
CLANG
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

Yikes.
This isn't going to go well.
HUFF
HMMM.

Move it!
Let us through!

SAT
Huh?
Rin-chan?
Oh, it's you, Juri! We were wondering what the commotion was.
JUMP
!
SLAM
Ugh.

Her name tag!
Kyo-chan. Touka-chan.
TWIST
GRAB
GRAB
Wh- What's with her strength?
Why?
Take her tag off!
!

DROOP
TH-THUMP
That's right!
GRAB

PHEW

TH-THUMP
BAM
What?
Argh!

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
Ugh.
GRIP
Urgh...
The cuffs...
Onii-chan.
SPARK
SPARK

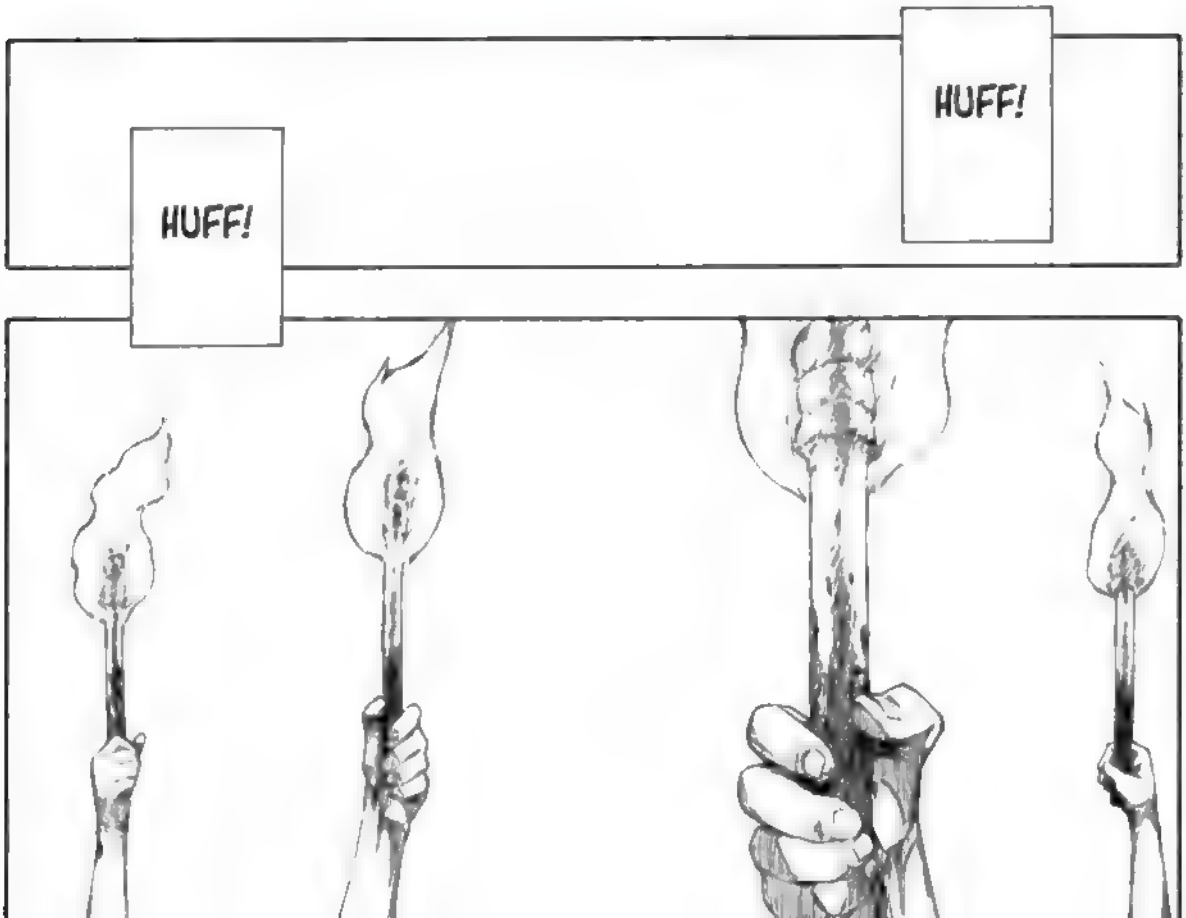
Darn it!
We have no choice.
GRAB
THUMP
WOBBLE

Oh!
CATCH
!

Phew.
Ma'am!

But she was moving...
A Jiang Shi can't move without its tag.

I'll look into it some more.
Thanks.


HUFF!
HUFF!

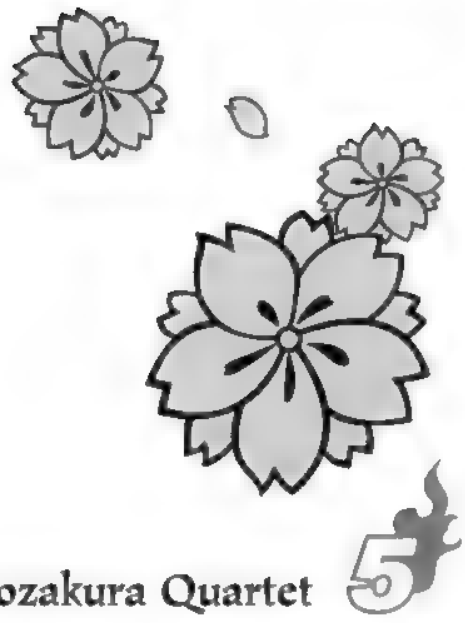
HUFF!
DASH
DASH
HUFF!
HUFF!
DASH
TRIP
Sob
THUD
OW!

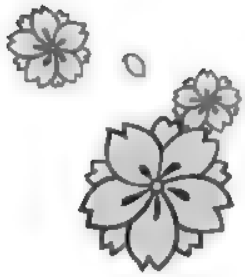
Come.
Come.
I'll protect you.

.....
Where am I?
RIN
Huh?
Why am I awake without my tag?

GRIND
Long time no see.
GRIND
You left your master and ran so far away.
You naughty girl...
GRIND
THUD
Gah!

26th Night: Sea of Stars (Part 1) The END


Yozakura Quartet
5



Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

5

I've heard it before.
Listen to me, Akina!
I wanted to go check up on Rin, but my wife said ...
We have customers, so we couldn't both leave the restaurant!
That is why we closed the store early today.

CREAK

I know, but still ...
Oh, quit it!

I know, but ...
Juri-chan is with her, so she'll be fine.

?
Juri-san?
.....
What's wrong?
DASH
Juri-san.
Juri...

27th Night:
Sea of Stars (Part 2)

Jurisan.

Jurisan!

SNORT
.....

What happened?
Ouch.
I was caught by surprise and got knocked out.
Hey!

Honey!
What happened to Rin, Juri-chan?!
Where's Rin?

She looks fine.
GETS UP
Argh.
Darn, they got me.

I'm sorry.
She was kidnapped.

Who kidnapped her?
It couldn't have been anyone else...
CLENCH
...but a demon hunter.
A necromancer.
!

TURN
Hey!
Old man!
...!
You were with her! How could you let this...
Wh-Why?!
A necromancer? You mean Rin's old...

Phew.
Are you all right?
Old man...
BOOM

BAM

You don't have the right to blame someone who couldn't do it, unless you can do it yourself!
The right thing to do isn't laying blame, but getting the job done.
That's what you would have done before!
When did you become such a wimp?
I'm so disap-pointed in you!
.....

Sure.
You take care of Juri-chan!
PLOP
Whoa.
STANDS UP
Okay.
We'll search for her. Let's go, Akina!
All right!
That's right.
GRIP
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
Don't take on more than you can handle.
I'll get ready and join you when I feel better.
All right!
DASH
Ready?

*80 yen = 80 cents

I heard Rin-chan had problems earlier today.
Is everything okay?
もちもちCHEW CHEW
Oh... yeah.

You got it wrong, Hime-chan.
Huh?

I'm sure you got a lot of complaints about Kohime-chan last time...
もちもちCHEW CHEW
...and I think I'm speaking for most of us...
...but as a human in this town...
We're all...

No one was injured, but a lot of things were destroyed.
I'm sorry about the trouble it caused.
That's not it.

Everyone was worried about Rin-chan today.
No one was thinking "oh, those demons again."
...worried...
...for the demons. Our neighbors.
I see.
Well...
She's settled for now, I'm told.
That's good.
But I won't let anything like that happen again.
I promise, as mayor of this town!

She's matured so much.
That wasn't enough mochi.
I should buy another one.
GROWL
So why don't you?
OPEN
Well, my allowance...
Huh? Don't you get a big salary for being the mayor?
UMM...
She uses most of it for city funds.
Like remodeling the preschool.
HMMM.
Oh my.
I want to buy summer clothes, too.
Spending her allowance wisely, huh?
I guess she's a mayor, but a high school girl, too.

I can't receive gifts as mayor!
N-No, you can't!
SHAKE
SHAKE
Oh.
Please give me two.
One for Hime-chan.
And one for Kyo-chan.
What?

It's not for the mayor...
It's a treat for Hime-chan.
Is that wrong?

Since my patrol is done...
Yeah.
もぐ CHEW
もぐ CHEW
But I'm worried about Rin-chan.

WHOOSH

...I was gonna go see her.

Whoa.

WHOOSH

Whoa.

Whoa...

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

HM?
HIME!

What ?!
She's over there.
There you are.
Rin was kidnapped by a hunter.
TROT tap tap
CHEW CHEW
I don't ...
LIFT
WHOOSH
!
... have a lot of time for you.
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

Hime!
JUMP
DASH
THUMP
DASH
DASH
Whoa.
CASH
Hello?
DASH
What?
BEEP

What is it?
I thought you might have forgotten.
About what?!

Everyone knows you're a demon now.
DASH
So you can chase them without worrying about it!
DASH
!
DASH

Yah!

right.
GRIP

Whoa.
TRIP
DASH
DASH
That's...

!

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

-GRIND

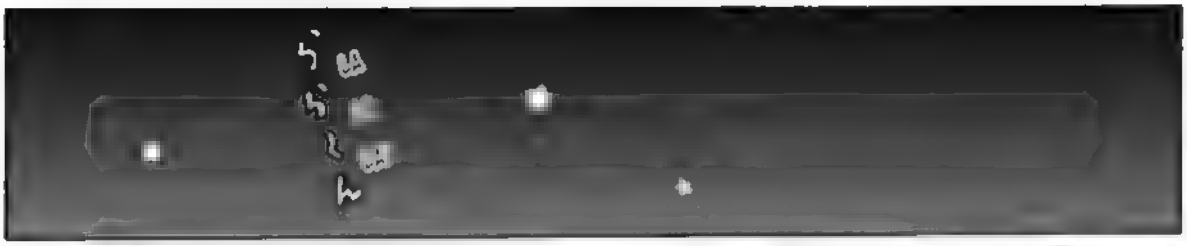
Oh my.

It's the mayor

Akina! Kyosuke!
Back me up!
DASH
Got it!

WHAM!
WHOOSH
Got her!
SCREECH
WHOOSH
DASH

Well.
I guess I'll play with you for a bit.
TWING
Tsk.



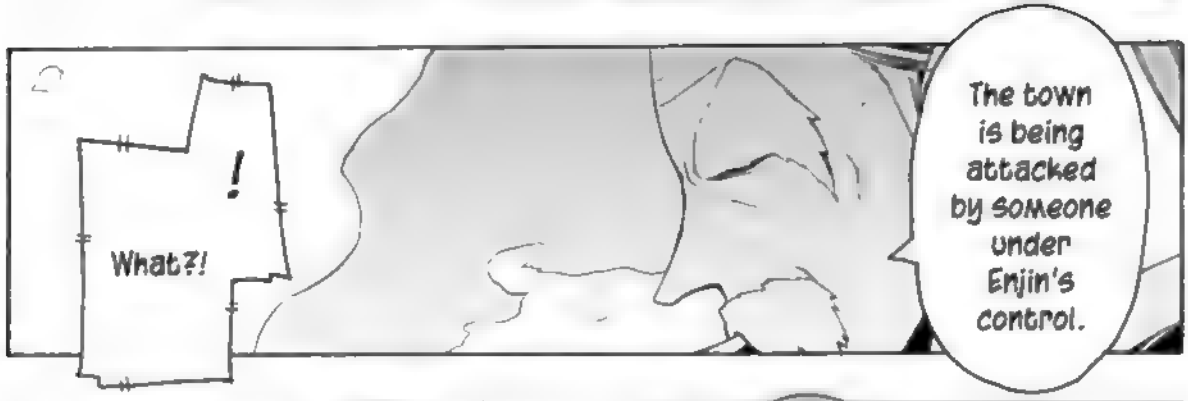
I'm so happy we found some cute clothes.
のほほ～ん
BLISS
Yeah.
They were cheap, too.

Kotoha-chan, your phone's ringing.
BEEP
I wonder what...
Yikes!
?

Let's go home then!
バーン
SMILE
I think we're forgetting something...
RING RING

Heh heh.
Oh, not at all.
From the sound of it, it seems like you forgot...
I don't mind talking to you or Uzu-san.
But I don't really like Usuzumi-ojii-san.
Hmph.
Ha ha ha. I'm sorry!
Akina-kun told us that you were coming, but it's getting late.
BONK
Whoa !
I heard that!

How are you?
Oh, good evening.
Hmph.
We don't have time to kid around.

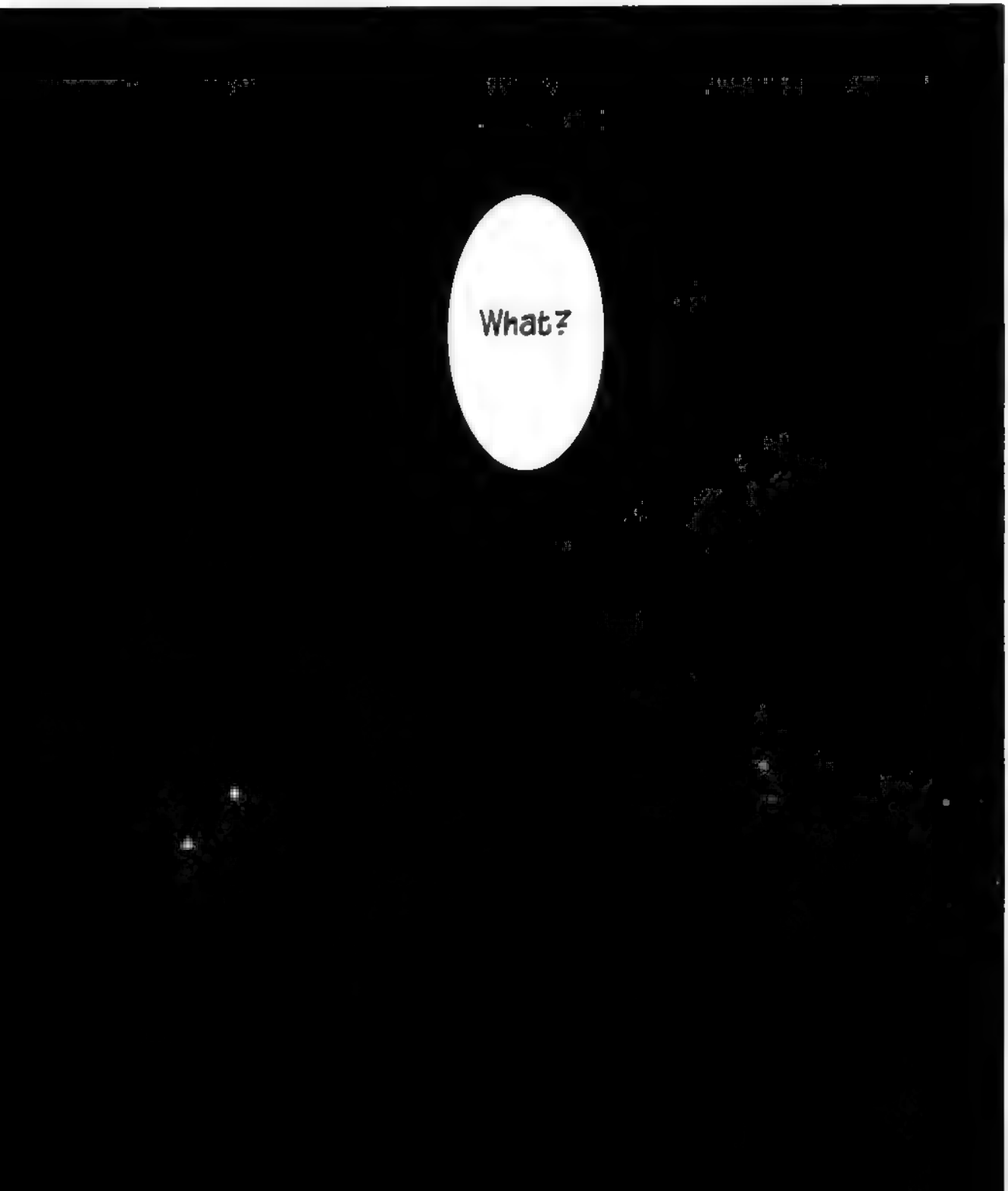

!
What?!
The town is being attacked by someone under Enjin's control.

Hey, Ao! We need to head home fast!
Talk to you later.
Wait.
Why did you think you were heading over here?
I'll tell you some-thing about the hunters.
THUMP
Oh yeah.
Why are you helping us, though?
It's odd.

The deputy is worried about you guys.
About the town and the residents.
Shidare.
Say no more.
Kotoha-chan, let me listen, too.
SQUEEZE
I'll tell you later.
SQUEEZE

Hello?
Oh don't mind us.
Please continue.
BOO!

What a beautiful sky.
The hunters are all...
All what?

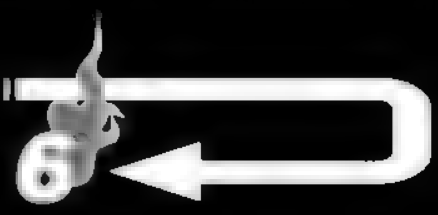

What?

THUD
CRASH

THUMP
What's your name?
.....
I'm Sakurashin City's mayor.
Hime Yarizakura!
My name is Zakuro.
Zakuro Kurumaki.
You're pretty strong.
Very strong.
But...
It's normal for demons to be strong.
GRIP
You're no fun.

Isn't there anyone else in this town...
...Who's more fun?
?

To be continued.....



Yozakura Quartet

27th Night Sea of Stars (Part 2) The END

Yozakura Quartet 2008 Calendar Cover Art

Anime Series to Start

Monthly Shounen Sirius June 2008 Cover Art

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

5

SCREAM
IAKINA IKYOWKE
YOZA...!
And get eel guts.
Let's try for Eel-Mon evolution.
Hey!
THUD
Let's skin it.
C'mon eel bowl
All right! DePeated the Eel-Mon!
Hmph!
Wh-Why are you here?
TA-DAH
Ack! It's the hall monitor!
Why aren't you studying for final exams?!

Please leave.
Shall I use this bed?
CREAK

BEEP
WHIRR
Found intruder...
Security robot
Another one?!

I'm going to live here for a while!
It's the job of the hall monitor to keep an eye out for delinquents! You have to check up on them even during their private lives!
GULP
I'll drink your tea, too!
GULP
Please leave!

There!
GRAB

Don't mess up my house!
Punishment!
BONK
BONK

Another rule breaker? I'll punish her, too!
You shouldn't do it.

I got...
SQUEEZE

BEEP
WHIRRRR

Huh?
You're not a machine?
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE

Destroy!
Watch out!
KA-BOOM
GRAB

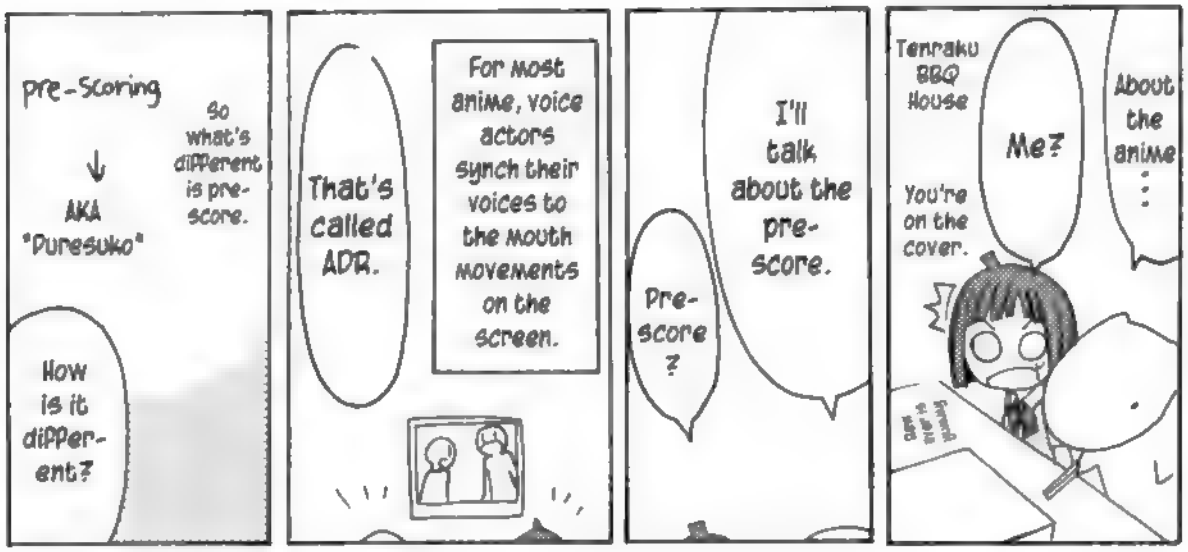
You made me upset.
Pretending to be a robot
PLOP
There was someone inside?

Ouch. Are you all right?
ドキン TH-THUMP
Oh.
What's this?
Soft boobs?
!
むぎゅ SQUEEZE
I know you helped me, but what the heck are you doing?!
ドカ POW
Ack!
Like that.
Looks good.
No it's not!
Me again?!

Bonus Manga

Thank you very much!
This is the Afterword, which we do after the strange bonus manga.
Thank you for purchasing Yozakura Quartet volume 5!

So...
SANCHA
Only a little bit?
No, there's a lot.
So I'd like to talk a little bit about the anime this time.
お
お
WOW.
We're getting close to the anime series actually starting.


pre-Scoring
AKA "Puresuko"
So what's different is pre-score.
How is it different?
That's called ADR.
For most anime, voice actors synch their voices to the mouth movements on the screen.
Pre-score?
I'll talk about the pre-score.
Tenraku BBQ House
You're on the cover.
Me?
About the anime...

That's right.
The "pause" where they wait for the other character to finish.
They don't have that "pause" that's common in anime.
Oh!
And the voice actors act based on the flow of the scene. That's called pre-score.
WATCHING
Oh.
During the recording session, they only have a rough sketch called a story-board.
I see.
And they draw the animation based on the recorded voice.
Not only is the timing great, but the power of an action scene can be felt in pre-scoring.
Their timing is incredible!
Of course, both have their pros and cons.
ADR's timing is the "screen-writer's tempo," while pre-score is for the "voice actor's tempo."
...when you watch the session, it's really rather interesting.
REALLY?
So this pre-score...
All the voice actors are really skilled, and the quality of the voices is honestly the best I've ever heard.
It's really amazing.
I'm looking forward to it.
I hope you look forward to it.
You'll probably be amazed at how natural it sounds when the characters are just chitchatting.

BUZZ
BUZZ
This rehearsal is...
BUZZ
BUZZ
So the voice actors go over the storyboard and script at home.
They do one run-through rehearsal.
Big group
And then it's time to record!
BUZZ
BUZZ
TH-THUMP
I wonder if it'll be okay.
After that, they do a final check on the script and wait.
Then they have a meeting that lasts about an hour.
In a bad way.
Don't...
...you think it's hectic?
May-be...
Compared to ADR, it's hard to tell how the other actors will act in pre-score, so there's a lot of commotion during the rehearsal phase.
The final recording is amazing.
They're pros!
It's awe-some!
Wow!
It's different! It's completely different!
It's...
BUZZ
BUZZ

Talks started around late 2006.

The anime project was decided on around April 2007.

Around volume 2.

The concept is to use the manga as the basis, and concentrate on specific themes.

Hope you enjoy it.

So...

I'm sure you're worried about the plot of the anime.

It doesn't follow the manga verbatim.

The manga isn't completed, but they have to wrap up the anime in twelve episodes.

The anime is made separately from the manga, so I hope you enjoy the anime and the manga each as their own stories.

Hopefully you won't get confused.

I attended their meetings every week, but all I did was review their work.

The series director and Kanada-san, the series concept writer, worked on the concept.

Once the whole concept is decided upon, the scripts for the first six episodes are written. Then the concept is restructured for the latter half of the series.

And we started talking about the script in August 2007.

We've been working on the script for almost a year.

Anime takes a long time to make.

Along with the pre-score, the overall sound of the series is avant-garde.

Hope you enjoy it.

I was surprised when I heard it for the first time.

This is amazing, too.

Whoa! What's going on?

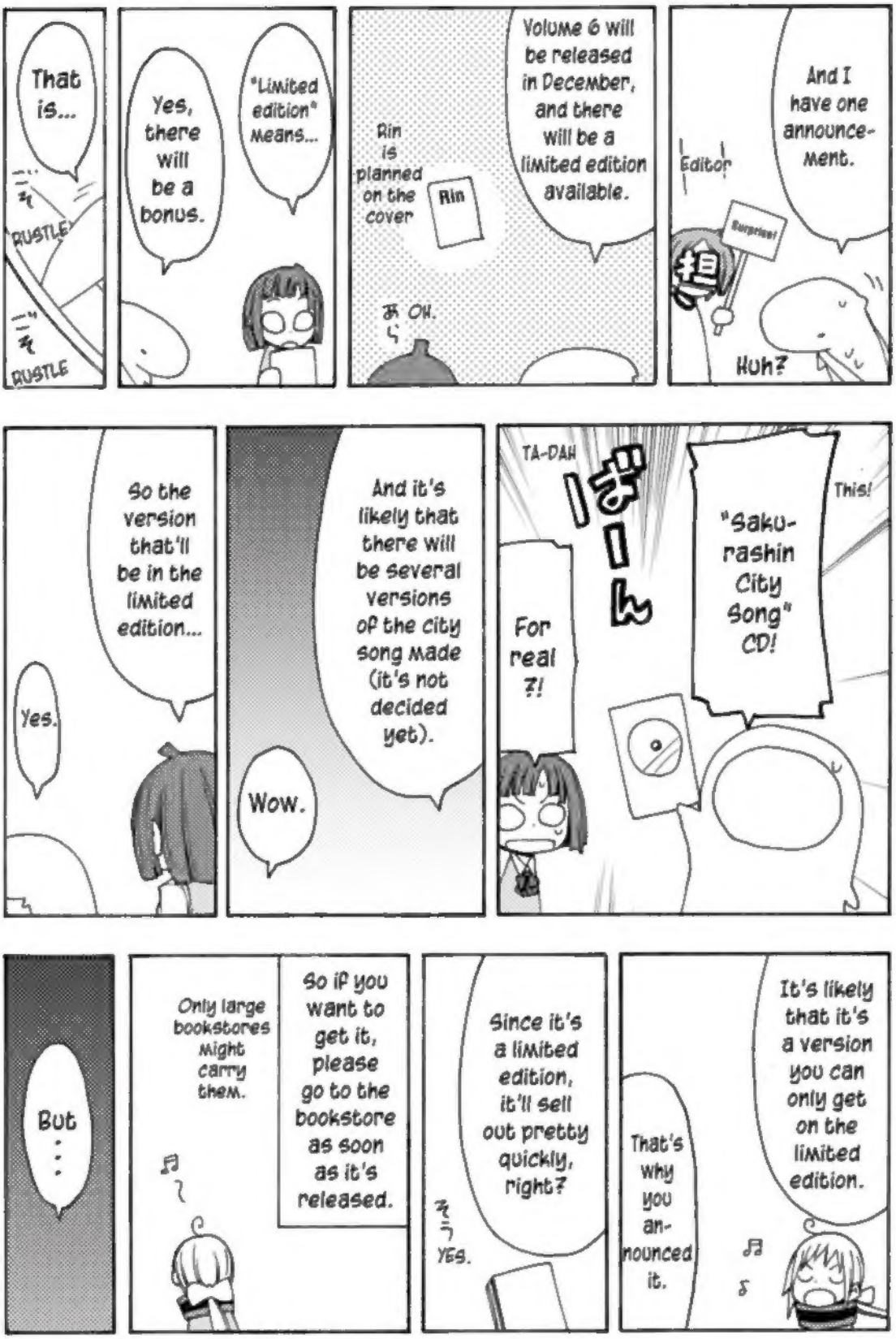
Like a sound-track?

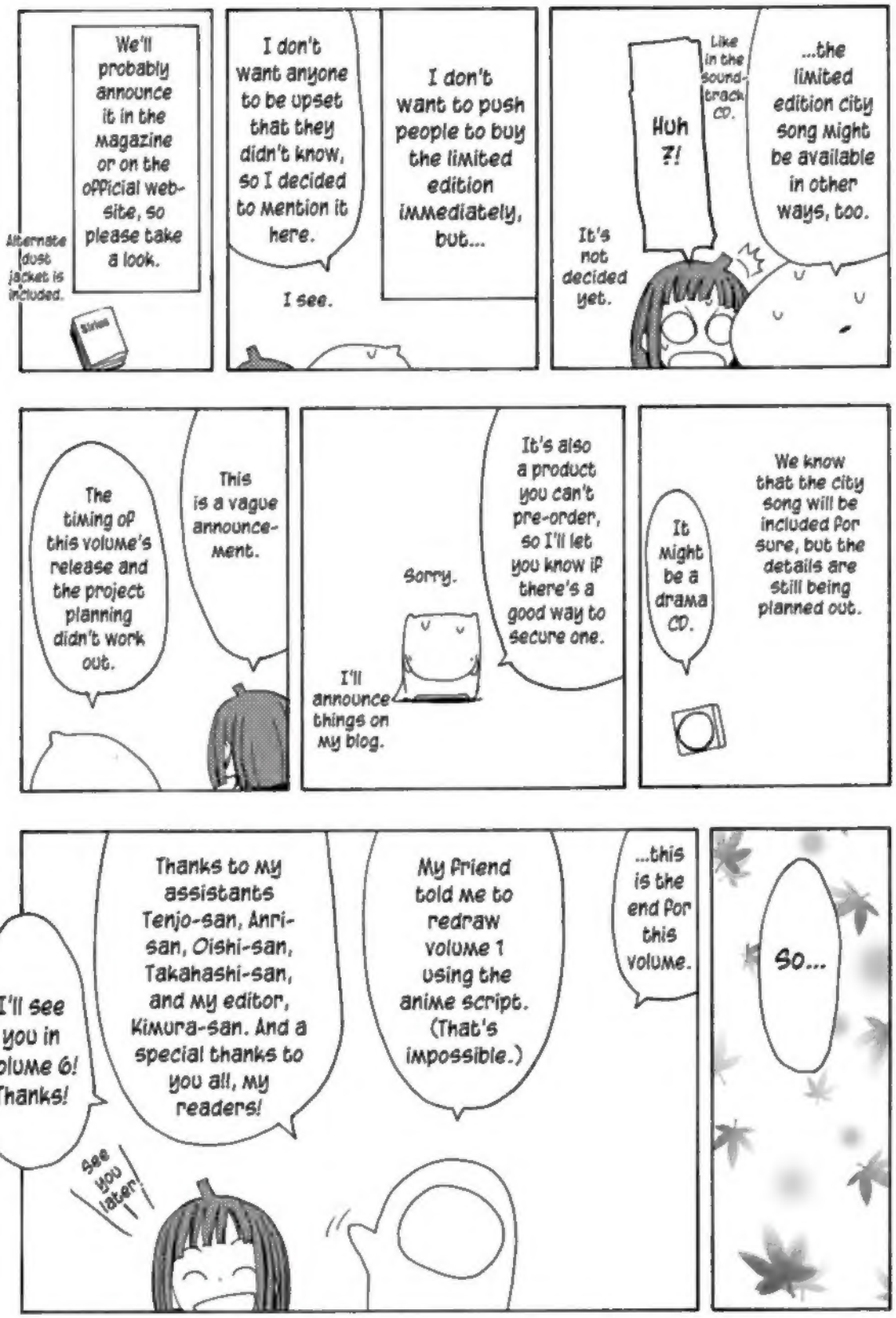
There's a theme that plays through-out the episode.

Let me listen.

For the theme song and music, I left everything up to them.

Whoa, what happened?!
There was too much text earlier.
CLEARED
So.
There are a lot of stories I want to write about, so I'm currently planning the order.
Manga is so much fun.
I wonder.
I wonder whose story is next?
The manga will continue and will try to be just as entertaining, if not more so.
Will the Rin arc end in the next volume?
Yes it will.
So the anime will be airing soon.
Thanks!
Hope you're looking forward to the next volume!
The next volume is the climax of the Rin arc.
I want to wrap it up neatly.
So...


That is...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Yes, there will be a bonus.
"Limited edition" means...
Rin is planned on the cover
Rin
OH.
Volume 6 will be released in December, and there will be a limited edition available.
Editor
Surprise!
And I have one announcement.
Huh?
So the version that'll be in the limited edition...
Yes.
And it's likely that there will be several versions of the city song made (it's not decided yet).
Wow.
TA-DAH
This!
"Sakurashin City Song" CD!
For real?!
But...
Only large bookstores might carry them.
So if you want to get it, please go to the bookstore as soon as it's released.
Since it's a limited edition, it'll sell out pretty quickly, right?
YES.
That's why you announced it.
It's likely that it's a version you can only get on the limited edition.


We'll probably announce it in the magazine or on the official website, so please take a look.
Alternate dust jacket is included.
Shiina
I don't want anyone to be upset that they didn't know, so I decided to mention it here.
I don't want to push people to buy the limited edition immediately, but...
I see.
Like in the soundtrack CD.
Huh ?!
...the limited edition city song might be available in other ways, too.
It's not decided yet.
The timing of this volume's release and the project planning didn't work out.
This is a vague announcement.
Sorry.
It's also a product you can't pre-order, so I'll let you know if there's a good way to secure one.
I'll announce things on my blog.
It might be a drama CD.
We know that the city song will be included for sure, but the details are still being planned out.
I'll see you in volume 6! Thanks!
Thanks to my assistants Tenjo-san, Anri-san, Oishi-san, Takahashi-san, and my editor, Kimura-san. And a special thanks to you all, my readers!
My friend told me to redraw volume 1 using the anime script. (That's impossible.)
...this is the end for this volume.
See you later!
So...

About the Author

Suzuhito Yasuda's cute and colorful character designs, sharp linework, and unique talents have made him a popular artist in the fields of both manga and novel illustration. He has illustrated such Japanese novels as *Kamisama Kazoku*, *Scarlet Sword*, and *Maid Machinegun*. He has also worked on the manga series *Pinky:Comic* and *Ebony & Ivory*; *Yozakura Quartet* is his latest work.

His Preferred Tools:
PowerMAC G4 933Mhz
Apple studio display 17 TFT

PowerMAC G4 Cube
Apple Studio Display 17 CRT

Sony VAIO Notebook PCG542B

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Sakura

Sakura is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. *Yozakura* in the title refers to *sakura* at night, or viewing *sakura* at night.

Jiang Shi, page 4

A *Jiang Shi* is a Chinese demon. These zombies hop around and prey on living creatures to absorb their *chi* (living energy).

Mochi, page 153

Mochi is the Japanese word for "rice cake." It is very sticky.